

P4 The most effective medium of instruction **P12** Worsening signs of depression among youth
P16 A life runner **P20** A new dimension of printing **P20** Left-handers are not stupid **P24**
Ethnic minorities struggle for spotlight on the screen **P26** Punctured beauty **P28** SOPA series

THE YOUNG REP•RTER magazine

November 2013

26-year-old policy
Tackling
Job-hopping
Appealed
Cannot Work
Abolish
Rights
Filipino
visitor's Permits
1987 Indonesian
Domestic
Helper
Discriminatory
Two-week Rule
2,245 Complaints
Court Case
Home
Temporary
Standard
Assault
Double
New Employment


Cover Foreign domestic helpers seeking justice against their employers in the courts are in a limbo as they are not allowed to work while their claims go through the courts.

In This Issue

FRONT

4 View

The most effective medium of instruction

6 Feature

Foreign domestic helpers seeking justice in court are not allowed to work

10 A gender dilemma

The untold struggle of transgender individuals in Hong Kong

12 Worsening signs of depression

Many teenagers suffering from depression develop suicidal thoughts

14 A promising ballet dancer realises his dream on stage

The persevering spirit of a young male ballet dancer has enabled him to reach stardom on stage



NEWS

16 A life running

A business executive gives up his high-paying job for a career in philanthropy

18 Substandard tree management

Inconsistent standards for tree inspection have led to excessive pruning

20 A new Demension of Printing

3D printing ushers mankind into a whole new world

22 Left-handers are not stupid

Overcoming cultural stereotypes in a world dominated by right-handers

24 Ethnic minorities struggle for spotlight on the screen

Ethnic minority artistes struggle to break free from stereotypical roles in show business

26 Punctured beauty

Chinese acupuncture has become a natural form of beauty treatment

NEWS

28 Journalism Matter

The inaugural HKBU-SOPA Award Winners Forum

30 Mr Jamil Anderlini

Bo trial is Communist Party's means to consolidate power: journalist

32 Mr Michael Forsythe

Pressure mounts on investigative reporting in mainland

34 Mr Ernest Chi

"Investigation in the light and dark"

36 Mr Thomas Fuller

An eye-opening assassination



In the October issue, we examined the role Christianity plays in Occupy Central, the civil rights campaign proposed by three Christian activists Hong Kong's last-ditch push for universal suffrage.

Letter from the Editor

THE YOUNG REPORTER magazine

In the November issue, we run a special feature on the city's controversial two-week rule, a 26-year-old policy that prohibits foreign domestic helpers from – among other things – taking up employment while engaging in a lawsuit.

We shed light on the plight of those who have been reduced to living in cramped conditions and on charity from friends while seeking justice against their employers in court.

Also, we give readers an insight into the successful story of Zhejiang-born dancer Mr Shen Jie, who is a soloist with the Hong Kong Ballet and a rising star on the stage.

As we celebrate the Hong Kong Pride Parade 2013 this month, we have decided to take a closer

look at the issue of social stigma against transgender individuals in the city by delving into the gender dilemma facing them.

Last but not least, we bring you the first-hand accounts of several award winning journalists of practising investigative journalism in Asia. They were at the Hong Kong Baptist University between November 4 and 8 to share their experiences with journalism students and faculty members at the inaugural HKBU-SOPA Award Winners Forum.

Finally, we welcome any feedback letters or emails from you on our stories and design layouts. Starting from the November issue, we will publish your letters and email messages in our magazine.

Brian Yap
Editor in Chief

Editor-in-Chief
Brian Yap

Deputy Chief Editors
Rachael Leung
Vanessa Piao
Natasha Chan

Web Editors
Giselle Chan
Celine Ge

Art Directors
Joy Huo
Cleo Tse

Public Relation Officers
Catherine Lim
Cheng Song

Distribution Officer
Ruby Leung
Venus Ho

Advisers
Judith Clarke
CK Lau

Design Adviser
Wade Chan

Publisher
Steve Guo

Printer
Department of Journalism
School of Communication
Hong Kong Baptist University

Printer address
Dept of Journalism,
HK Baptist University,
Kowloon Tong, Kln

The Young Reporter
Volume 46 No. 2
2013

Editors
Kasim Chan
Jessica Lee
Eunice Leung
Ching Liu
Lawrence Mak
Lavinia Mo
Andrew Wan
Katheleen Wong
Frederik Freiherr
Julie Henches

Reporters
Alpha Chan
Aska Cheong
Tsui Jin Cheng
Whitney Fan
Annie Lee
Karen Lee
Natalie Leung
Stephen Leung
Rainbow Li
Alice Wan
Stephen Wang
Joyce Wong
Nikki Wu
Katrina Yau
Carain Yeung
James Zhang
Vicky Wan
Karen Leung
Yupine Ng
Josie Wong
Caleb Norton
Tiffany Lee
Lokie Wong

E M A I L
editors@tyr.hk
FACEBOOK
t y r m a g
WEBSITE
t y r . h k

View

The most effective medium of instruction

I seldom comment on Hong Kong affairs, given my limited knowledge of the city where I have been residing for three years. Otherwise I would be “playing with an axe at the front door of carpenter Lu Ban’s house”, a Chinese idiom meaning showing off one’s meagre skills before an expert, without realising one’s limitations. Discerning readers might have well guessed my mainland background through the following hints, including the pinyin romanisation of my Chinese name and the title of my column, Chenglish. Mind you that it has an intended pun as it plays with my given name and Chinglish, defined by Wikipedia as “ungrammatical or nonsensical English in Chinese contexts”. I was originally commenting on weird news in the mainland until I heard the recent spat over language of instruction in local tertiary institutions. Alright, as a graduate-to-be, I would like to share my views on this lingering issue, although I have neither the ambition nor capability to hamper Hong Kong’s autonomy and muddy the waters of “one country, two systems”.

The latest war of words broke out in a postgraduate class on Chinese culture at one of the eight government-funded universities. Since most of the postgraduates are either local students or mainlanders, the university has designated some courses on this subject be taught in Putonghua and some in Cantonese. According to a report in Apple Daily in mid-October, disputes arose when mainland students in a class taught in Cantonese requested the teacher to lecture in Putonghua. To strike a balance, the instructor conducted the lectures mainly in Cantonese while repeating the lesson’s key points in Putonghua, reportedly to the dismay of local students. The story unleashed a full-blown outcry from Hongkongers against not only mainland students’ attempted breach of the language rule, but also the increasing presence of students from across the Lo Wu border.

Mainland critics vehemently fought back after the dispute went viral. Thousands of people on Weibo - the Chinese equivalent of Twitter - have reposted a lengthy statement, believed to be written by a mainland student enrolled in the class, accusing the Apple Daily reporter of “intentionally and selectively fabricating the news with bias”. Local pro-Beijing dailies Wen Wei Po and Ta Kung Pao also published opinion pieces criticising Apple Daily for distorting the facts while calling for pluralism and cultural integration. Even the Beijing-based tabloid The Global Times, well-known for its nationalistic stance and huge circulation, weighed into the row by slamming Hong Kong media’s sensational coverage of the incident.

Okay, let me make it clear. I am not discussing the specific

facts of this case, which I have made no attempts to verify. Neither should my views be generalised to cover the whole picture at all local universities. My take on this case is derived from my experience at Hong Kong Baptist University, which has seen prolonged debates on the issue of teaching language(s) even before I was admitted.

The website of my university’s Academic Registry says: “The medium of instruction for formal classroom teaching at HKBU is English, except for those courses that are granted exemption.” The major rationales behind, as once explained by the university’s administration, are to cater to the needs of non-Chinese speaking students and to boost the institution’s ranking in terms of “internationalisation”, a concept often simply operationalised as the proportion of classes taught in English. Oh dear, this is at most anglicisation. People used to cherish “melting pot”, the metaphor for a society’s integration process popular in the last century. But now, we treasure the alternative concept of “salad bowl” more, respecting cultural diversity instead of achieving homogenisation.

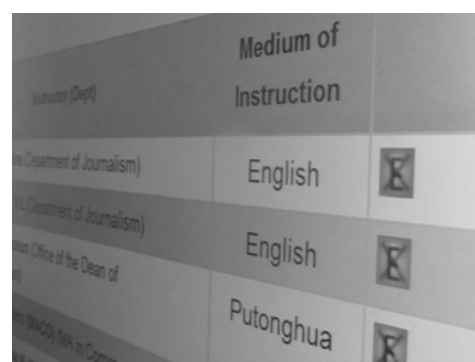
My view is the goals of HKBU are driven by legitimate motives. However, its language rules have undermined the popularity and prominence of Chinese, the language used by over 90 per cent of the population in the community the university serves.

Consider the broader societal context. Article 9 of the Basic Law states that “in addition to the Chinese language, English may also be used as an official language”, which, from a purely linguistic point of view, suggests Chinese has a higher status than English. An increasing number of court cases are now heard in Chinese, and our lawmakers, whether or not they are filibustering, speak most of the time in Cantonese. Although bilingual researchers who want to build up their academic reputation find it much more helpful to publish their papers in English-language journals rather than Chinese ones, I cannot understand why our teachers have to seek extra permission if they want to teach in Chinese, their native tongue.

Moreover, my university’s mission statement has stressed its commitment to “academic excellence”. This suggests that we should put knowledge first, therefore academics ought to teach in the language they consider most effective in imparting their knowledge. Fortunately enough, all the Chinese lecturers I have met are proficient in English. Otherwise I might even consider asking for a refund of my tuition fees if my teachers struggled to speak English and ended up uttering nothing more sensible than “eh...” “uh...” “em...” or “you know”.

Chinglish

We should put knowledge first, therefore academics ought to teach in the language they consider most effective in imparting their knowledge.

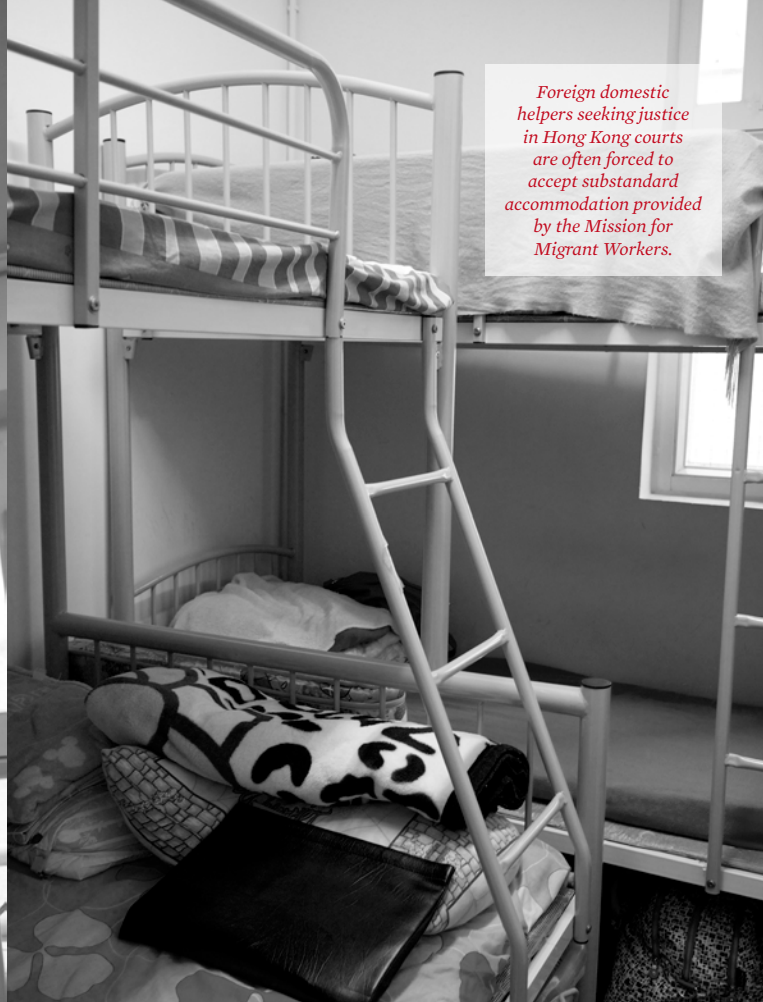


In reality, no two instructors who taught me had ever adopted the same approach to tackle the language woes. A common practice is that a teacher would teach in the language - usually English - required by the syllabus first and then, if necessary, briefly recap what he or she said in the language of which most students in the class have better command. But this might still give rise to complaints from students who are illiterate in either one of the languages used in the class. Of course, we do not have the interpreting resources as our courts do, where all parties concerned can express their ideas in the language they are most comfortable with. It is a wishful thinking to hire simultaneous interpreters for every class, nor is it feasible to have three sections for every course, taught respectively in Cantonese, Putonghua and English. The best way to solve the medium of instruction row would be to set the teaching language in consultation with relevant “stakeholders”, including students, teachers and the university administration.

Once a decision is made, everyone should stand by it.

Finally, let me share with you my panacea, actually a quotation from chairman Mao Zedong: Work with our own hands to get ample food and clothing. For young people in Hong Kong, it is meaningless to require everyone to become a linguist though, possessing the ability to speak flawless Cantonese, fair Putonghua and fluent English is definitely a killer competitive edge, no matter on campus or in the job market. That being the case, university students should be required to attend courses to polish their skills in the three languages until they have lived up to the desired standards. Even now, I still regret that I started learning English at a late age of 12 and Cantonese only after I came to Hong Kong. I acknowledge that I am far from being “biliterate” and “trilingual”. But if you have achieved that, you would probably find that the seemingly never-ending row about medium of instruction is “too simple, sometimes naive”.

by Song Cheng



Foreign domestic helpers seeking justice in Hong Kong courts are often forced to accept substandard accommodation provided by the Mission for Migrant Workers.

Rough Justice:

Foreign Domestic Helpers and Dilemma Between Employment and Justice

*Foreign domestic helpers seeking justice
in court are not allowed to work*

“You can shop, eat, go to Disneyland but not work.”

A foreign domestic helper who does not want her name to be mentioned



The wheels of justice are moving slowly for Filipino domestic helper Tess, who has been stuck in Hong Kong for the past 25 months while waiting for her assault case against her employer to go through the courts.

Tess went to the police in October 2010 to report that her male boss had hit her on the head with a mobile phone.

The employer was convicted and fined HK\$5,000 earlier this year but has since appealed his case, forcing Tess to remain in the city longer for the appeal process to run its course while being barred from taking up employment elsewhere.

Tess's situation is far from unique.

At a press briefing held by Caritas in mid October, four Indonesians and a Filipino helper complained about staying in the city on visitor's permits and without a job while seeking justice for themselves.

One of the helpers who spoke out at the briefing said she was told by immigration staff that she could shop, eat and go to Disneyland but not work.

“It [the policy] deters people from complaining because they are not allowed to work. That is the very spirit of the two-week rule: you cannot work,” said Ms Cynthia Abdon-Tellez, the executive director of Mission for Migrant Workers.

Introduced in 1987, the two-week rule confines the period of stay for foreign domestic helpers whose contracts have been terminated to two weeks, within which they are allowed to seek new employment.

Advocacy groups and industry experts have pointed out that the two-week rule, a 26-year-old policy that prohibits foreign domestic helpers from – among other things – taking up employment while engaging in a lawsuit, is a violation of human rights and encourages abusive treatment of maids.

“We have opposed this policy because it is against human rights and also it is discriminatory,” said Ms Doris Lee, a spokesperson for Open Door, a local migrant women workers concern group.

This is aimed at tackling job-hopping, referring to the



Foreign domestic helpers who are seeking justice in court turn to the engraved stone plaque in one of the shelters for consolation.

“It deters people from complaining because they are not allowed to work. That is the very spirit of the two-week rule, you cannot work.”

Ms Cynthia Abdon-Tellez, executive director of Mission for Migrant Workers

act of changing jobs regularly in order to stay in the city indefinitely.

According to the Immigration Department, there were 1,384 complaints in the first half of the year from 252,472 foreign domestic helpers in the city, compared with 2,245 complaints from among 245,531 helpers for the whole of last year.

Although the policy states that laid-off foreign domestic helpers are allowed to change employment under exceptional circumstances such as in the case of abuse, it fails to mention that there is often a long court process before exploitation or abuse can be proved.

“This can take a year to 15 months. Basically they stay here for a year and they are not allowed to work,” said Ms Lee.

On the other hand, there are others who have been quietly waiting at several shelters for helpers whose contracts have been terminated. At one, 43 Indonesian

and Filipino helpers are living in cramped conditions waiting for their complaints to go through the courts.

Indonesian-born helper Annie said she had to scrounge around to pay the HK\$160 visitor’s permit fee for every two-week extension. Meanwhile, the employers who allegedly mistreated her were able to hire new helpers, which she said was a “double standard”.

The policy has been condemned by the United Nations’ Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and its Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

“When the message is so clear, so black and white, the government should abolish this rule as soon as possible,” said Ms Lee.

But the Immigration Department has insisted that the department exercises flexibility in extending a helper’s stay as a visitor so they can wait for the conclusion or determination of the case.

By **Tsau Jin Cheng**
Edited by **Brian Yap**



Mr Maggie Leung said he has more problems than expected.

SOCIETY

A gender dilemma

Whether transgender people should be legally and socially allowed to acquire a gender that differs from their sex at birth without undergoing sex reassignment surgeries remains an issue

MR Maggie Leung, a transgender man, faces a dilemma every time he has to use a public restroom. Men's or women's? That is the question.

Restrooms for the handicapped are usually his way out, as long as they are not closed for maintenance, which is not uncommon.

"I remember going into a men's restroom once. A man said some rude things to me," recalled the 27-year-old man by birth, who feels and behaves like a woman and showed up in a Hello Kitty T-shirt for the interview.

Apart from experiencing difficulties in everyday life, Mr Leung has also encountered discrimination in the workplace and lost his job to gender. He was fired from the high school he

used to work for because the principal regarded transgenderism as contrary to his religious belief.

Transgender people, sometimes known simply as "trans", do not identify with the gender society expects of them based on their genitalia or physical appearance, and often prefer to dress and act in ways associated with the opposite gender. They differ from transsexual persons in terms of medical intervention – they have not yet undergone sex reassignment surgeries or opt not to do so.

Persons like Mr Leung are currently categorised as suffering from a kind of mental disorder known as Gender Identity Disorder, which is specified in the widely used "bible of psychiatry" Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

As a result, transgender people in the city are protected from discrimination under the Disability Discrimination Ordinance instead of the Sex Discrimination Ordinance.

The categorisation is criticised by the transgender community, who think they should be treated as a minority rather than handicapped individuals as transgenderism, in their words, is merely a "condition" but not a kind of "disability".

Dr Day Wong Kit-mui, Associate Professor of Sociology at Hong Kong Baptist University, said Hong Kong was lagging behind other developed economies in terms of upholding the rights of minorities.

"Put in a global context, you can

“It is the right of everyone to live a life of dignity free from harm and discrimination.”



Ms Mimi Wong, an activist fighting for rights of transgender people

see that many other global cities have followed the trend of safeguarding minority rights,” she said. “Hong Kong as a global city will have to seriously consider following this direction as well.”

Restroom quandary and mental health doubts are not the only woes plaguing the city’s trans. Transgender people are not allowed to change the sex shown on their identity cards before undergoing full sex reassignment surgeries, a set of potentially dangerous and prohibitively expensive surgical procedures that alter the appearance and function of one’s sex characteristics to make them resemble that of the opposite sex.

Having only the upper body transformed, under the current law, does not qualify a transgender person for a legally recognised change of gender, leaving half-done trans in a tight spot.

In an opinion piece published in the South China Morning Post, Dr York Chow Yat-ngok, Chairman of Equal Opportunities Commission, the statutory body responsible for enforcing anti-discrimination laws, argues that transgender people deserve legislative protection since the sex on their identity documents is frequently a giveaway that brings transgender people troubles under many circumstances.

“The possible incongruity between a transgender person’s physical appearance and the sex on their legal documentation leaves them at high risk of discrimination and harassment, not to mention violence,” he wrote.

Dr Chow and Dr Wong both suggest that Hong Kong consider adopting the UK’s Gender Recognition Act, under which transgender people can establish their desired gender legally after an at least two-year-long doctor observation, while having undergone surgeries is not a necessary condition.

Ms Mimi Wong, almost 60 years old, is one of the activists who are calling for legislation and education to ensure equal rights and opportunities for transgender people.

She had sex reassignment surgery several years ago with zero support from her family. Prior to the surgery, she felt she was a woman trapped inside a man’s shell and the social

intolerance of her gender identity had been upsetting her.

“I think people just look upon us as freaks,” she said. “People do not know who transgender people are and that’s why I think more education is needed.”

Ms Wong visited Britain and described her experience in the opposite hemisphere as eye-opening. Having witnessed the British society’s acceptance of the transgender community, she is determined to bring about some changes in Hong Kong.

“We need anti-discrimination laws,” said Ms Wong. “I have a plan on my mind to change the mindset of Hong Kong people.”

Ms Wong then founded the Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China, which organises campaigns for legislation to protect transgender people, provides them with psychiatric therapies and educates the public.

She also plans to start a business where transgender people can work and engage with society.

Ms Wong believes that a person should be legally and socially recognised as having the gender he or she is determined to live as rather than one’s biological gender if the person is diagnosed with Gender Identity Disorder. And this should be the case even if this person did not want to undergo sex reassignment surgeries, she added.

“However, if you try to put this kind of thinking forward to the Hong Kong public, people just won’t agree,” she said.

Dr Chow noted that how the most vulnerable group was treated was a measure of a society’s level of civilisation and encouraged Hong Kong people to see transgender people as equals in his op-ed in the South China Morning Post.

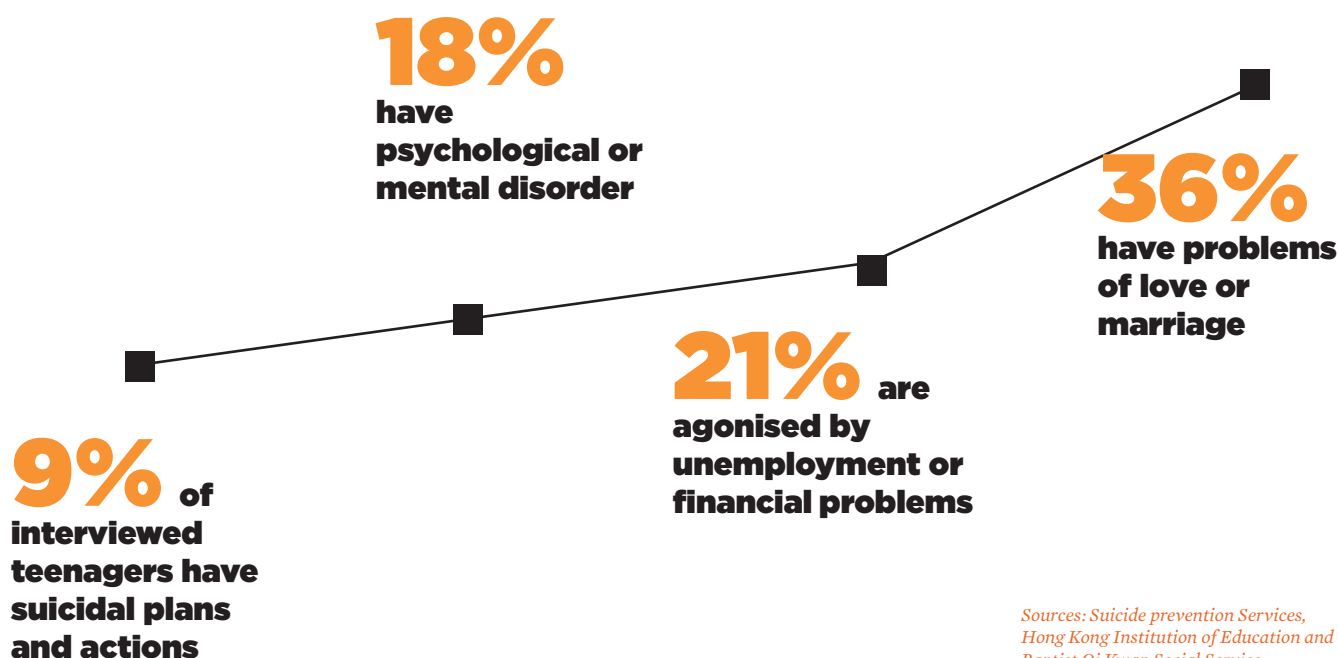
“By recognising and shedding our outdated gender stereotypes, we can be more inclusive of not only transgender individuals, but also others who may not conform to traditional gender expectations,” he wrote.

“It is the right of everyone to live a life of dignity free from harm and discrimination ... When we fail to protect one group, no matter how seemingly small a minority, from equally accessing this right, we chip away at our shared humanity. Surely, we can do better.”

SOCIETY

Worsening signs of depression

Many teenagers suffering from depression have overlooked its alarming symptoms and developed suicidal thoughts



Sources: Suicide prevention Services,
Hong Kong Institution of Education and
Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service

PLAGUED by severe mood swings and transient amnesia, Ah Shing, a 16-year-old secondary school student, had been under immense pressure from school, social life and family.

He felt exhausted all the time and would often find himself struggling to remember simple words and mathematical formulas.

Instead of seeking ways to reduce his stress, Shing would try to repress any negative feelings and hope that they would go away.

This eventually led to regular outbursts of temper over trivial matters and suicidal thoughts.

Hong Kong has been gripped by a staggering number of suicide cases involving teenagers in recent years, with the suicide of an 11-year-old primary school girl in September having sent shock waves across the city.

Industry experts and academics have pointed to the fact that many teenagers suffering from prolonged depression have overlooked or ignored

the symptoms, culminating in suicidal thoughts and acts.

"Some parents of teenagers suffering from severe depression have come to me for help, but their kids were totally oblivious to their mental health problems," said Miss Lai Sau-han, an experienced social worker with the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups from whom Shing has sought help.

According to a survey conducted by the Suicide Prevention Services with 34426 teenagers in September this year, nearly 70 per cent of the respondents said they had emotional problems.

A similar survey conducted by the Hong Kong Institution of Education and Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service in early September this year found that 51 per cent of some 5000 secondary students surveyed showed symptoms of depression, which was about ten per cent higher than last year.

Worse, about one-fifth of the respondents showed medium to high levels of symptoms of depression.

The combined results have been reflected in a string of teenage suicides since September this year, with at least six teenagers plagued by emotional issues have ended their lives.

"Stress stemming from school work, relationship problems and a lack of support from others is the main cause of depression for many teenagers nowadays," said Dr Mark Li Kin-yin, a senior lecturer at the Department of Social Work at Hong Kong Baptist University and a specialist in local youth issues, adding that young people today often struggle to cope with stress and to deal with their emotional problems.

Miss Lai shared Dr Li's views that teenagers must be encouraged to always seek help from parents, teachers, professionals or friends when feeling stressed or depressed.

"Education and communication is the key to preventing depression and, in the worst case scenario, suicide," said Miss Lai.

By **Stephen Leung**
Edited by **Mak Lawrence Li**

AVS 義行義跑 義014

AVS Walk & Run for Volunteering 2014

2014年1月12日(星期日)

12th January, 2014 (Sunday)



義務工作發展局

AGENCY FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE

義行 Walk for Volunteering

路線：

- ▶ 白石角海濱公園
- ▶ 白石角海濱長廊
- ▶ 白石角海濱公園

Route:

- ▶ Pak Shek Kok Waterfront Park
- ▶ Pak Shek Kok Promenade
- ▶ Pak Shek Kok Waterfront Park

起步時間：上午10時正 (全程約需1.5小時)
Starting Time: 10:00am (Journey about 1.5 hours)

義跑 Run for Volunteering

路線：

- ▶ 白石角海濱公園
- ▶ 近元洲仔公園
- ▶ 白石角海濱公園

Route:

- ▶ Pak Shek Kok Waterfront Park
- ▶ Near Yuen Chau Tsai Park
- ▶ Pak Shek Kok Waterfront Park

起步時間：上午8時30分
Starting Time: 8:30am

齊來行義，立即報名！

Support Volunteering, Enroll NOW!

網址 Website: www.avs.org.hk

電話 Tel: 2527-3825

電郵 Email: frp@avs.org.hk

鳴謝：
Special Thanks to:

THE YOUNG REPORTER
magazine



*Ballet dancer Shen Jie
as the male lead in the
famous play Castrati.*

PEOPLE

A promising ballet dancer realises his dream on stage

Shen Jie endures tough drilling and injuries to get to the top

ON a hot late summer day, Mr Shen Jie, who had just finished his ballet practice, put on two T-shirts and a pair of thick, cushioned shoes before heading to the studio for an audition.

After a few rounds of intense auditions, in which the adjudicators measured the length of his arms and legs and asked him to imitate some dance moves, Mr Shen, then 11, was admitted to Zhejiang Vocational Academy of Art.

It was a dream come true for him.

As a male ballet dancer, Mr Shen, now 25, has persevered through years of rigorous training at the academy before making a name for himself in a field long dominated by successful female ballerinas.

“At that time, there were about 20 students in my class, but only ten of us graduated in the end,” said Mr Shen.

For six years, he would get up at six in the morning for an hour of stretching and warming up before having breakfast, and would alternate training with hours of academic lessons. Even at night, he had to spend extra hours studying for his courses or practising dance moves.

But the intense practice routines soon began to wear on him, particularly as he had injured both his knees and feet before.

“It is especially important for male dancers to keep their knees intact because they are required to perform leaps regularly.”

Many of his classmates didn't share the kind of perseverance to continue with the demanding drills and dropped out after a year or two. Some of their parents thought the training were too tough for them while others remained doubtful about pursuing an unstable career in ballet.

“The daily routines at the time were so painful and tiring. We were asked to perform moves which are impossible for an ordinary person to achieve,” said Mr Shen, adding that “his mentors’ encouragement helped me get through the hard times.”

Besides having to endure long hours of intense training, Mr Shen was lucky to have received huge financial support from his parents as art schools of such scale in China often charge their students as much as 10,000 yuan in tuition fee, while it

costs only 2,000 to 3,000 yuan to attend ordinary schools on the mainland.

Mr Shen furthered his ballet studies at Guangzhou Dance School for half a year, followed by a six-month internship with Guangzhou Ballet.

Without a second thought, he decided to be a ballet dancer when graduation was approaching.

Mr Shen's determination motivated him to learn more and improve. He came to Hong Kong in 2006 to pursue further studies at Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts as recommended by his first tutor who initiated him into ballet. The following year, he was invited to join Hong Kong Ballet where his career took off.

Mr Shen was promoted to soloist at Hong Kong Ballet in July this year.

“I am a lucky man. I have been given a lot of opportunities by the company and they didn't come easy,” he said.

He has since played a number of lead roles in plays written by renowned choreographers, including the Castrati by world-class choreographer Mr Nacho Duato, which Mr Shen described as one of the most unforgettable performances.

“I was so very nervous. In fact everybody was nervous because he is such a famous choreographer. Even when I got selected, I was worried that I couldn't dance well enough.”

The dance moves demonstrated by Nacho Duato have made Mr Shen realize that there is more potential in him than he ever thought.

“He encouraged me and pushed my limits at the same time. You don't usually dance like that, but when you do, you will find that you can perform so much better and learn a lot more.”

While many people think a ballet dancer is at his or her peak at 20 to 30 years old and therefore it doesn't give them much time to enjoy the spotlight, Mr Shen thinks otherwise.

“Of course I will keep dancing as long as I can. After all, ballet is what we do every day and I learn new things every single day. It allures me to look forward to tomorrow.”

He plans to stay in the ballet field even when one day he is no longer capable of dancing on stage.

“As an actor, we don't dance for the sake of completing our job, but we dance for ourselves.”

“For better or worse, I chose ballet, and I don't regret it.”

Mr. Shen Jie, a young male ballet dancer

MOST BEAUTIFUL THINGS IN LIFE ARE NOT SEEN BUT FELT

BY

HEART

Dialogue in the Dark is a blind experience organisation, one of many social projects created by SVHK

PEOPLE

A life runner

The humanitarian who embraces challenges and loves to dream



“I’m a Masochistic freak!” These are the precise words Mr Francis Ngai Wah-sing, founder and Chief Executive Officer of Social Ventures Hong Kong (SVHK), uses to describe himself.

Living by his life motto, which is “maximise everything while you can”, Mr Ngai dives into a range of responsibilities to improve society and participates in tough marathons, pushing himself to the limit whenever he can.

Mr Ngai, 39, was raised in one of Hong Kong’s cubicle apartments, where families squeeze into a 100 to 200 square-foot room divided by plasterboards. It was there that he witnessed the everyday struggles of the less privileged and noticed that even the poorest people

had dreams.

“Living in those cubicle apartments was far from comfortable, but people insisted on relying on themselves instead of social security. They hoped to be successful one day,” said Mr Ngai.

A firm believer that everyone should be given a fighting chance, Mr Ngai points out a flaw in capitalist societies. “They don’t allow equal opportunities,” he said. “Many get left behind when two per cent of the population gets hold of 50 per cent of global wealth.”

It was for this reason that the father of two children resigned from his well-paid job as Assistant Vice-President of PCCW to found Social Venture Hong Kong.

Mr Ngai has been a volunteer for more than ten years, offering his services to those in need, such as children, the elderly and hospitalised persons with mental disabilities.

His vision through SVHK is to create a charitable organisation that is run under an equity model and is self-sufficient at the same time. SVHK’s aim is to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor by providing financial and non-financial support to social-purpose organisations and social enterprises in Hong Kong.

“We want to create an undefined social enterprise. No matter whether it is for profit or non-profit purposes, people who work in different fields can join in,” he said. “After all, to be a social venture you need to fulfill a social and financial mission. We work for a social purpose, but we sustain the program by a business method.”

Mr Ngai said this sustainable enterprise created in society a more equal relationship relying on empathy rather than sympathy. Many people who were unfortunate were not looking to be pitied - the best way to help them was to empathise and treat them equally, he said.

SVHK reaches out to the disabled, underrepresented and underprivileged. It is currently one of the investors of Dialogue in the Dark, a blind experience organization that eliminates stereotypes of the visually impaired, promotes social inclusiveness and helps provide job opportunities for the blind.

The success of SVHK has seen the philanthropic organisation going on to nurture a variety of programmes such as Diamond Cab, the first barrier-free taxi service, Light Home, the first affordable housing initiative to alleviate poverty of single-parent families, and many others.

SVHK has recruited more than four hundred professionals as volunteers, who work together to contribute towards a higher cause. “We want to be Robin,

“People should dream a dream, because big dreams are not only beneficial to oneself.”

Mr Francis Ngai Wah-sing, founder and Chief Executive Officer of Social Ventures Hong Kong

who helps Batman become a hero,” said Mr Ngai.

The secret to Mr Ngai’s success is to “believe in yourself, follow your dream and go against the grain.”

“Ninety per cent of people are followers, and very few of them are willing to contribute as a pioneer,” he said. “But if you think what you are doing is correct, you should insist on it.”

Having become the first Hongkonger to participate in the North Pole Marathon, Mr Ngai uses his passion for marathon running as an example of finding one’s dream.

“You need to find out the starting point of your marathon from the deepest corner of your heart,” he said. “Your dream must originate from you yourself, or else you will not have the passion to keep going.”

He approaches work and life with the same attitude he has towards marathon running. “The determination to struggle for a better life is the same spirit needed to run a marathon. One should be given hope and a helping hand,” he said.

Mr Ngai believes it will make a difference to the world if more people rethink the values we are meant to pursue.

“People should dream a dream, because big dreams are not only beneficial to oneself. ‘ME’ is the reflection of ‘WE’ and there are many dreams and values that we all share.”

By **Aska Cheong**
Edited by **Natasha Chan**



SA0665
TS009

ENVIRONMENT

Substandard tree management

The absence of a centralised tree management system has prompted concerns over the varying standards for inspection of local trees

THE absence of a centralised tree management system has prompted concerns over the varying standards for inspection of local trees.

Have you ever noticed there are different tags on the bark of local trees? You may wonder what the letters and numbers on those white tags represent. In fact, they are the reference numbers used by different government departments for old and valuable trees.

Valuable trees not only refer to those that are particularly larger or older, but also those that are of rare species, outstanding form as well as cultural and historical significance.

But industry experts and academics see trouble for the management and monitoring of local trees, as various government departments are in charge of inspecting them and there is no definite procedure for determining whether a tree needs pruning or removed.

“Tree topping, the practice of removing the whole top of trees, is not recommended by the international community but it is common in Hong Kong,” said Miss Winny Yeung Wing-yin, a geography undergraduate from Hong Kong Baptist University who has investigated many local tree problems.

According to a press release issued last year, Secretary for Development Mr Paul Chan Mo-po was quoted as saying that apart from the Tree Management Office (TMO), there were nine other government departments responsible for local tree management.

Among the government bodies tasked with monitoring local trees are the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Department, Architectural Services Department, Civil Engineering and Development Department and the Department of Drainage Services.

“The system of tree management in Hong Kong is still very young,” said Mr. Matthew Pryor, head of division of Landscape Architecture and director for the Landscape Studies program at the University of Hong Kong.

As the government subcontracts the job of monitoring local trees to different contractors, some experts doubt whether they are capable of carrying out high-quality inspections.

Inappropriate branch removal practices may worsen the health condition of trees. Tree topping may lead to severe damage to a plant, resulting in a huge hole on the bark. Fungus may then grow in the hole, leading to decay of the tree.

The changing of tree structures may also increase the chances of tree collapses.

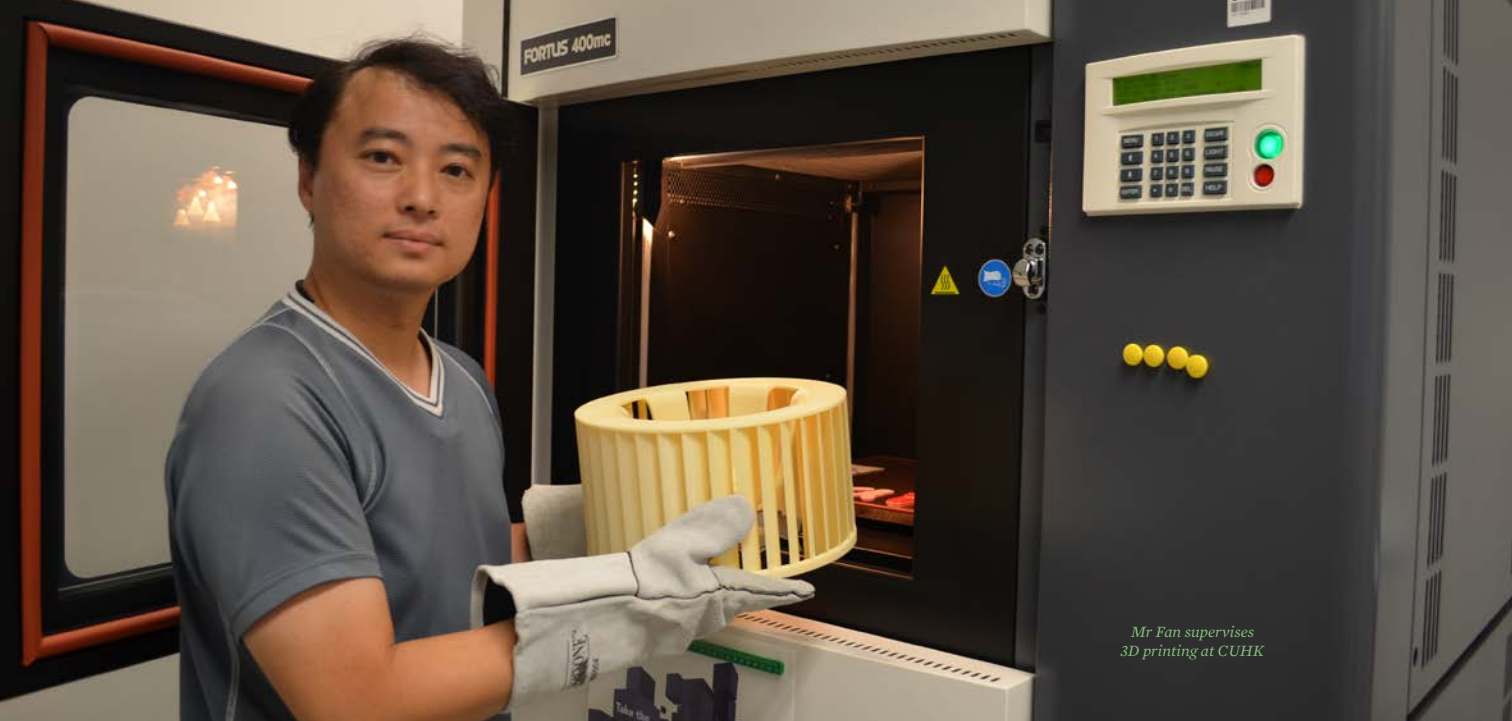
According to the TMO, nearly 30,000 trees were chopped down by departments between April 2012 and December 2012.

Some academics have attributed the poor management of trees to the lack of adequate horticulture and arboricultural training programmes in Hong Kong.

“Courses taught in Western countries are usually in the form of a 3-year or 5-year degree programme. However, such courses last for only a few days in Hong Kong,” said Mr. Pryor.

“I hope the government will organize the industry better by making it a quality game,” said Mr Pryor.

Old and valuable trees in Hong Kong are each attached with a tag bearing a reference number showing which government department they belong to.



Mr Fan supervises
3D printing at CUHK

ENVIRONMENT

A New Dimension of Printing

Printing process steps into 3D world ... fascinating but not so green?

WOULD it be weird if one day we could literally “print” an edible pizza, a usable car or even a living kidney? Probably, but these are the goals that technology experts around the world aim to achieve through 3D printing.

Also known as Rapid Prototyping, 3D printing creates stereoscopic products by successively “printing” thin layers of ultraviolet curable material one on top of the other. It is said to be a greener solution for the manufacturing industry by using recyclable feedstock and reducing the consumption of raw materials.

The new printing technology has even triggered the government’s interest. The U.S. space agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, plans to have its first 3D printer in their space station in 2014. As astronauts cannot nip out to shop for components while they are in orbit, 3D printer will allow them to print what they need, saving the costs of resupply missions.

While space exploration may be too far for Hong Kongers, there are some local designers that have embraced 3D

printing. Yet, is this technology taking steps to the road of green manufacturing in the city?

“3D printing abandons the traditional way of making a figure by cutting and attaching parts,” said Mr Frankie Fan, Executive Officer supervising the use of 3D printing at the City University of Hong Kong. “It is an adaptive manufacturing in which no mold is needed during production.

Mr Fan said 3D printing also reduces carbon emission by minimising the transportation of goods. “Instead of shipping the products, designers can send the graphics to buyers through the Internet and let them print the goods on location.”

Last September, a sculpture of a Hong Kong pop singer in scale of 200% was displayed at the local first-ever 3D scan and print exhibition.

Mr Lam Shu-kam, creative director of the company that organised the exhibition, said the rapid prototyping technology helped make the figure more detailed. He would scan the individual

and confirm all the details in the computer before printing.

Appealing as the new printing technology may sound, the technology comes with its downsides.

Mr Fan said university students mainly use three types of raw plastics to make figures, but only one of them, extracted from cornstarch, was bio-degradable.

“Plastics and metals used as feedstock for 3D printing are similar to those of traditional manufacturing in Hong Kong,” he said. “Pollution can be equally harmful.”

Mr Wong Wing-fai, head of Rapid Prototyping and Manufacturing Unit of Industrial Centre at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, said the technology was still in its initial stage and could only be applied locally for educational purposes rather than industrial ones.

“Whether the technology is eco-friendly differs in terms of how we use it and what material we use during printing,” said Mr Wong, who has



Photo courtesy of AllRightReserved

3D printing is said to be an eco-friendly solution for the environment

“3D printing abandons the traditional way of making a figure by cutting and attaching parts.”

Mr Frankie Fan, the Executive Officer supervising the use of 3D printer in laboratory at City University of Hong Kong

experience of making bio-medical models and metal plating by rapid prototyping.

For example, the more non-degradable materials are used for printing a car, the more pollution there will be. Also, more fuels will be needed for driving the model.

Besides, desktop 3D printers designed for small-scaled manufacturing are classified as “high emitters” of ultrafine particles when melting the plastic feedstock. According to a report published by researchers from the US Illinois Institute of Technology, “every minute during operation a printer emits billions of particles invisible to the human eye. The particles may pollute the indoor air and cause serious respiratory disease for humans in the long run”.

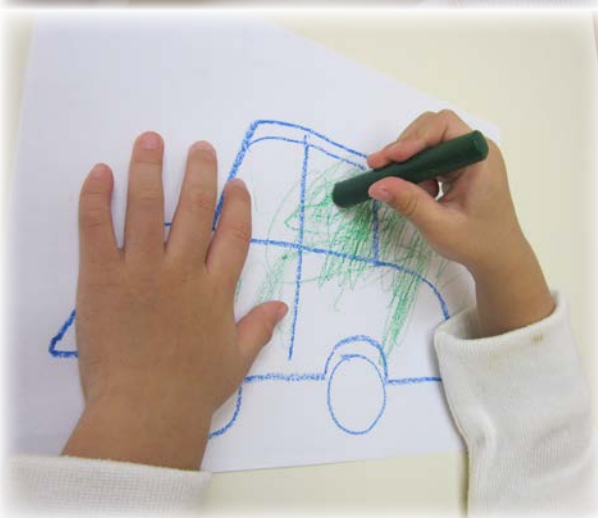
It suggests that a standalone 3D printer should be equipped with good filtering and ventilation systems.

“Printers using powder feedstock instead of plastic may also result in high emission of particles. Users have to wear masks that have been tailored to filter small particles in order to avoid inhaling the harmful substances,” said Mr Wong.

Despite all these challenges, he is optimistic about the future of 3D printing.

“To unleash 3D printing’s potential as a greener manufacturing technology, the key will be to create unique, greener product life cycles,” said Mr Wong. “With further improvement, it gives hope for a manufacturing and innovation revolution.”

By **Vicky Wan**
Edited by **Andrew Wan**



Different kinds of training can help children develop their bilateral capacity.

Photo courtesy of Morrison Hill Child Development Centre of Hong Kong Christian Service



ARTS&CULTURE

Left-handers are not stupid

The world has become more tolerant of left-handers, but the pressure on them to change their dominant hand remains in a world designed for right-handers

Mr Lui Chiu-wing who teaches students the correct way of holding pens



MR Allan Zeman, a left-hander, still remembers how his mother tried to force him to become a right-hander when he was young, at a time when left-handers were often regarded as freaks, if not downright stupid.

"She tried to change me but I was stubborn," said Mr Zeman, founder of the Lan Kwai Fong entertainment district and one of Hong Kong's most successful businessmen renowned for his creativity and strategic sense.

Despite the inconveniences in his daily life, he still insists on using his left hand in a world dominated by right-handers.

"Live the way you are born to be," he said, adding that it is unnecessary and unnatural for one to change to fit the

social norm.

By now, the world has become a lot more accommodating of left-handers, who are being hailed as possessing certain desirable skills that are less commonly found among right-handers.

Indeed, a study by the University of Athens this year has found that left-handers demonstrate faster and more accurate spatial skills, stronger executive control and better working memory.

Mr Zeman said he would not attribute his success to his left-handedness. Instead, it was his determination to stay the way he felt things should be, rather than changing course in the face of disagreements, that counted, he said.



“Live the way you are born to be.”

Mr Allan Zeman, a left-hander, founder of the Lan Kwai Fong entertainment district

Still, in a world in which things are designed for the 90 per cent of the population who are right-handers, the pressure on left-handers conform with the majority remains strong.

Mr Lui Chiu-wing, chairman of the Hong Kong Hard Pen Calligraphists' Association, is a left-hander, but he is in the business of helping left-handed kids switch to writing with their right hands by using specially designed pens.

Although Mr Lui's lessons are costly, parents are willing to send their kids to his classes. This is because themselves and the kids' teachers, most of whom are right-handers, find it hard to help the children learn writing and are concerned it might hold the kids back.

“It is not a must to force kids to change their dominant hand completely. There are cases of people writing English with their left hands and Chinese with their right hands,” Mr Lui said.

For example, the champion of The Hong Kong School Chinese Penmanship Competition was a left-hander, he said.

Ms Winnie Chan Yee-fun, Senior Occupational Therapist at the Morrison Hill Child Development Centre, advises parents not to change their children's dominant hand as that might threaten their growth.

“Changing one's dominant hand might arouse developmental obstacles such as speech and sleeping problems because children will face stress in the process,” she said.

Ms Chan added that children might also encounter laterality and motor planning confusion from activities involving bilateral coordination, which could lead to reading, writing and learning difficulties.

Although research had proved that left-handers were not different from right-handers, the cultural belief that they did might be difficult to change, she said.

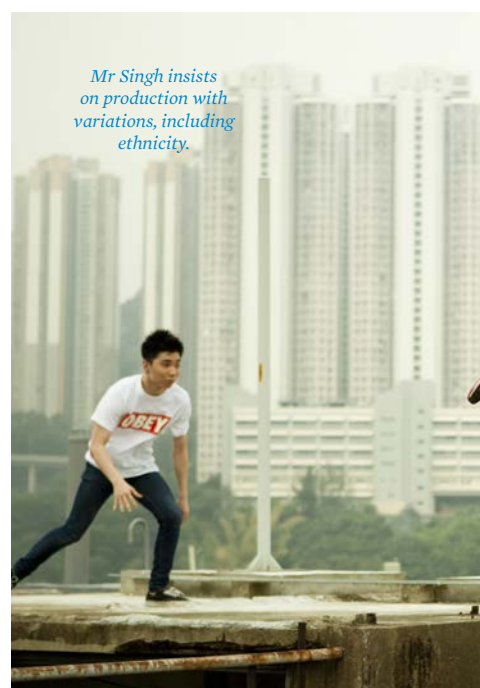
Most importantly, children's developments had to be based on the need of the children rather than social pressure. “If children really resist the change, better keep it natural,” said Ms Chan.

By **Alice Wan**
Edited by **Cleo Tse**

ARTS&CULTURE

Ethnic minorities struggle for spotlight on the screen

Ethnic minorities cast for stereotyped roles find it hard to shine in the entertainment industry



Mr Singh insists on production with variations, including ethnicity.

HE is the construction worker in *Rooms for Rent*, the pizza boy in *Love in a Puff*, the bank security guard in *Life without Principle*, and many crooks in other films and television shows. Most of the time, his roles went without a name.

"I won't say I'm always playing the same roles. I got to play a businessman and an executive before but that has happened only once or twice so far," said Mr Singh Hartihan Bitto, the 33-year-old actor, basketball coach and businessman of Indian descent, who is a third-generation immigrant in the city.

"People usually get me to do criminals or crooks."

Statistics tabulated in the Census and Statistic

Department's 2011 census report showed that among people of South Asian descent in the city, administrators and professionals made up 32 per cent of the ethnic group and 33 per cent had taken elementary occupations.

Actors within the ethnic group like Mr Singh, however, find themselves playing roles of the above 33 per cent of the population most of the time but not the 32 per cent of it.

Having friends of the same ethnic descent who are lawyers or doctors, Mr Singh said as a professional actor, he would not feel uncomfortable when asked to play roles of the working class.

"The reason we South Asians are always portrayed the same way has to do with the knowledge of the scriptwriters," said Mr Singh, who thinks scriptwriters who lack understanding of ethnic

minorities are to blame for stereotype-packed productions where South Asian people are largely either bad guys or nobodies.

Written by scriptwriters who often shut themselves in the office working on scripts without much research and first-hand observation, most local productions failed to reflect the reality of ethnic minorities in Hong Kong, he said.

Prof Lans Ladegaard, a researcher on stereotypes at Hong Kong Baptist University, said South Asian actors were more likely to be portrayed negatively on the screen due to the deeply entrenched stereotype of this ethnic group widely held among Hong Kongers.

"The negative stereotypes against minority groups would often tend to dominate. And you, as a group, form stereotypes in order to protect yourselves



“A good production has to include different people.”

Mr Singh Hartihan Bitto, an actor from ethnic minorities in Hong Kong



Photo courtesy of The Way We Dance

and to help you implicitly feel good about your own group because we are not like them,” Prof Ladegaard said, explaining the mindset of the city’s Chinese majority.

Current productions might have presented a distorted image of people of South Asian descent and led to discrimination, he warned.

Besides the negative depiction and marginalisation of South Asian people in films and on TV is their near absence on the screen, according to Mr Singh.

“Triumph in the Skies is an example. How could there be just a few foreigners in the airport? The faces appeared were either yellow or white. Where were the other colours?” he said, referring to a popular TV drama featuring airline crews.

Filmmaker Mr Saville Chan said the domination of Cantonese-speaking

Chinese in local films and television productions is inevitable given the fact that over 90 per cent of the population of Hong Kong is Chinese.

In countries with more heterogeneous population composition such as the United States, he said, characters of diversified ethnic makeup would usually be included in screenplays.

Mr Chan also doubts stereotypes can be avoided altogether in creative works.

“Stereotypes are everywhere in the imagery world,” he said. “The chubby ones are always more humorous. The lead actress must be slim. Princesses in fairy tales must be young and pretty whereas the witches must be wicked and evil. A fictional production without any stereotypes is a utopian dream.”

But he said he hoped that the misconceptions of ethnic minorities

would be gone in both the real world and the city’s film industry, where filmmakers could be the front-liners to shatter the stereotypes and make ethnic minorities more visible.

“I personally hope that I can produce a film featuring ethnic minorities in the future, and more Hongkongers will then realize ethnic minorities indeed make up an important part of Hong Kong culture,” Mr Chan said. “They are Hongkongers as well.”

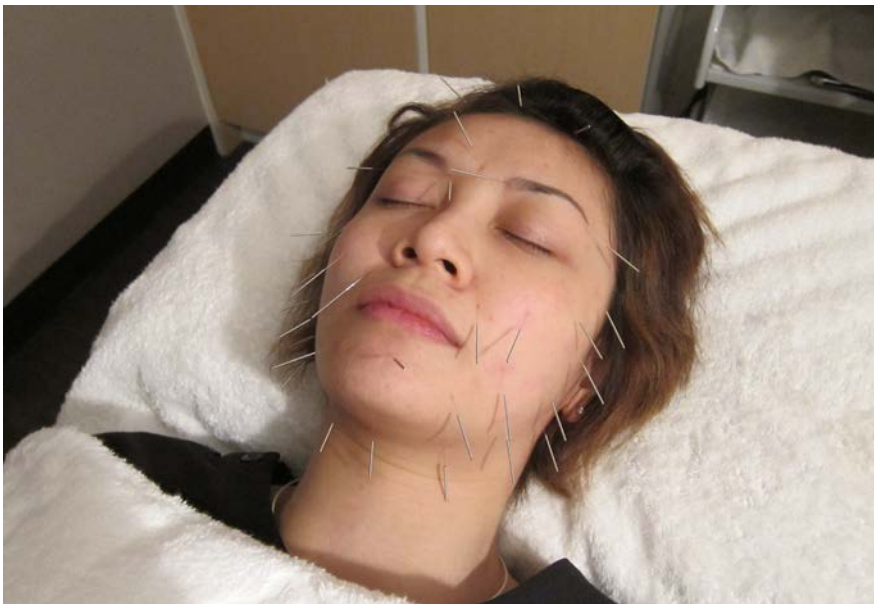
Mr Singh calls for a more accurate presentation of reality on the part of filmmakers.

“It is important to go out meeting and communicating with more people. That’s how you understand the reality and produce good films,” he said.

HEALTH&BEAUTY

Punctured beauty

Facial acupuncture is in



When needles are applied on acupuncture points, they improve health by stimulating the circulation of qi.

SCORES of needles are already sticking out of the woman's face, from forehead to chin, but the doctor still tries to insert more.

While it looks as if the woman is being victimised, the truth is she pays good money to have her face punctured - all for the sake of beauty.

Facial acupuncture, a cosmetic procedure rooted in traditional Chinese medicine, is the latest fad in Hong Kong.

At the Chain's Medicare Centre, Dr Kelly Chain Yeung Pui-kuen, a registered Chinese medicine practitioner, said about ten patients, from young women in their twenties to elderly in their seventies, asked for the procedure everyday.

"They come for beauty enhancements such as tackling acnes and blemishes, firming and slimming the face to a 'V' shape, and anti-aging. We also have male patients," said Dr Chain, who describes facial acupuncture as "green

Botox" and believes the procedure can relieve a wide range of skin problems.

Facial acupuncture became popular in the West over the past two decades, during which time Hollywood stars such as Madonna and Angelina Jolie became its fervent followers.

Now the procedure is charming its way back to Hong Kong, one of the cities where the treatment was first developed.

The growing popularity of facial acupuncture comes at a time when an increasing number of medical malpractice cases in the beauty industry have surfaced in recent years.

Ms Janice Lam, a makeup artist and instructor who has amassed more than 5,000 followers on social media websites, is a fan of facial acupuncture.

"Chinese medicine has a long history and I heard a lot of positive feedback about facial acupuncture. My friends told me that the procedure could relieve

the problem of edema and make the skin firmer, more radiant and hydrant," she said.

"Even if the effects are not obvious, at least it won't hurt my body! That's why I was willing to give it a try," she added.

Ms Cheryl Lam Hiu-ching, a 22-year-old fresh graduate, receives facial puncture on a regular basis to make her face slimmer.

"All girls are trying every means to become prettier. Now, a V-shaped face equates beauty," said Ms Lam, who prefers the procedure to plastic surgery or Botox injection as she does not expect to achieve visible differences overnight.

Dr Chain noted that facial puncture did have side effects such as bleeding and bruising, as the needles might prick capillaries beneath the skin.

Other risks included inflammation triggered by needles that were not properly sterilised and allergy to the metal used to make the acupuncture needles, said Dr Chain. One could also suffer from facial palsy as a result of malpractice on the part of acupuncturists, she warned.

"We have our strengths and also our limitations," she said.

The Western view is that acupuncture works by stimulating skin receptors, which then send signals to the nervous system that coordinates the release of neurotransmitters and alters various biological processes.

Acupuncture originated in China about 3,500 years ago. Traditional Chinese medicine believes that there are as many as 2,000 acupuncture points connected by 20 pathways called meridians throughout the human body.

Such meridians are channels through which qi, energy as understood in Chinese medicine, flows between internal organs and the skin surface. Acupuncture is believed to be able to improve health by facilitating the smoother circulation of qi.

By **Tiffany Ng**

Edited by **Julie Hennes**

Write to us.

***We will publish your letters in the
magazine and on our website.***

editors@tyr.hk

The Young Reporter

run by HKBU journalism students since 1969

Journalism Matter

The inaugural HKBU-SOPA Award Winners Forum

The inaugural HKBU-SOPA Award Winners Forum

The HKBU-SOPA Award Winners Forum 2013 was jointly hosted by the School of Communication of Hong Kong Baptist University and the Society of Publishers in Asia. It brought together five SOPA Award winners.



1 Mr. Jamil Anderlini, Beijing Bureau Chief of Financial Times
 Leature title: Bo Xilai scandal and what it means for China



2 Mr. Michael Forsythe, Hong Kong Correspondent of Bloomberg News
 Leature title: Using Chinese data to follow the money



3 Mr Ernest Chi, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Ming Pao
 Leature title: Investigation in the light and dark



4 Mr Titthara May, National News Editor of Phnom Pehn Post
 Leature title: Investigative reporting in Cambodia



5 Mr Thomas Fuller, Southeast Asia Correspondent of New York Times
 Leature title: Facts and tricky things: How the assassination of a Thai general changed my understanding of reporting



A series of sharing sessions hosted by the five winners took place at Hong Kong Baptist University from November 5 to 7. Let's take a look at what four of them had in store for us!

Bo trial is Communist Party's means to consolidate power: journalist

Mr Jamil Anderlini

THE trial of former Politburo member and Chongqing party secretary Bo Xilai was a means through which the current leadership of the Chinese Communist Party consolidated its power, said award-winning journalist Mr Jamil Anderlini.

The head of the Beijing Bureau of Financial Times made the remark at a sharing session with journalism students of Hong Kong Baptist University on November 7 as part of the first HKBU-SOPA Award Winners Forum.

Mr Anderlini won the Journalist of the Year award in 2010 and Excellence in Human Rights Reporting award in 2012.

This year, he won the Excellence in Feature Writing award for his investigative story, *Bo Xilai: Power, death and politics*, which sheds light on the political scandals surrounding Bo's downfall.

Speaking to a capacity crowd, the three-time SOPA Award winner started the sharing session with a reflection on the political significance of the trial of Bo and the hidden agenda of the Chinese government.

The trial was "all part of a consolidation of power by the current leadership and the maintenance of the Communist Party's grip on power," he said.

Although the verdict for Bo was pretty clear from the start, the government and party still went through great lengths to ensure that the public would view the trial as open and fair, said Mr Anderlini.

The veteran journalist pointed out that there was a growing concern among the Chinese leadership over the legitimisation of its action.

"It also showed how power is not institutionalized in China, especially during the transition of power," he said.

Mr Anderlini suggested that although the trial was meant to create a sort of "new rule of law in China", it actually reduced legitimacy and people's trust in the government.


"The system needs to legitimise its actions because there is no real legitimacy," he said.

As a reporter who has been living in China since 2000, Mr Anderlini is a fluent Putonghua speaker and sprinkled his lecture in English with numerous Chinese expressions.

Asked about the advantages enjoyed by the Financial Times in reporting China, he noted that the foreign media were not bound by many of the restrictions that applied to the Chinese media.

"I often meet with Chinese journalists who give me stories that they are not allowed to do," said Mr Anderlini.

by Lokie Wong and James Zhang

A man with dark, wavy hair, wearing a dark grey suit, white shirt, and blue patterned tie, is speaking into a black microphone. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera with an open mouth, as if in the middle of a speech. The background is a plain, light grey wall.

"The system
needs to
legitimise its
actions because
there is no real
legitimacy."



Pressure mounts on investigative reporting in mainland

Mr Michael Forsythe

DOING investigative reporting in China was both a “privilege” for and “responsibility” of foreign reporters, said Bloomberg journalist Mr Michael Forsythe several days before his abrupt departure from the international news agency amidst a row over self-censorship.

The award-winning journalist won the scoop award in the SOPA Awards for Editorial Excellence in 2012 for his investigative piece on the family wealth of then president-in-waiting Mr Xi Jinping.

However, Mr Forsythe was suspended from his post in mid-November on suspicions of leaking details about an unpublished investigative piece that was spiked at the eleventh hour, according to media reports.

“I can confirm that I have left Bloomberg News. That’s all I’m going to say for now,” he said in a Twitter post on November 19, one day after expressing his gratitude for the “incredible outpouring of sympathy and support” that he received.

The Financial Times identified the China story allegedly quashed as focusing on Mr Wang Jianlin, who founded the real estate group Dalian Wanda and ranked as the country’s richest man by Forbes.

Both the Financial Times and The New York Times also reported that top editors at Bloomberg decided not to publish the story because of concerns that the Chinese authorities might retaliate by banning its operations in the country, which is the world’s second largest economy.

Since the publication of the story on Mr Xi’s family,

Bloomberg’s news website has been blocked in the mainland.

The New York Times has suffered a similar fate, after its Shanghai bureau chief Mr David Barboza wrote a Pulitzer-winning piece on the “hidden fortune” of the family members of former premier Mr Wen Jiabao last year.

In early November, about a week before he left Bloomberg, Mr Forsythe was one of the speakers at the HKBU-SOPA Award Winners Forum at Hong Kong Baptist University.

Sharing his experiences with the university’s journalism students, he revealed how he was able to trace shareholdings in some Chinese companies to the close relatives of senior Chinese officials by sifting through bond prospectuses and company filings.

Explaining why he could easily retrieve public documents from official sources like the State Administration for Industry and Commerce (SAIC) without being denied a journalist visa by the Public Security Bureau (PSB), he joked in Putonghua: “That’s because the gongshangju (SAIC) does not talk to gonganju (PSB).”

The veteran journalist said foreign journalists should treasure their freedom of reporting in China by pursuing investigative stories, which were off limits to their closely controlled Chinese counterparts.

“If Chinese journalists were allowed to do this, they would have done so much earlier,” he said.

by Song Cheng

“Doing investigative reporting in China was both a ‘privilege’ for and the ‘responsibility’ of foreign reporters.”



"Investigation in the light and dark"

Mr Ernest Chi

ONE of the HKBU-SOPA Award Winners, Mr. Ernest Chi, Deputy Editor-in-Chief and Investigative Team Leader of Ming Pao, shared his experience involving the illegal structure controversy concerning Chief Executive candidates Mr Henry Tang and Mr C.Y. Leung.

Being the only Chinese editor to receive an award in this year's Excellence in Investigative Reporting, Mr. Chi started his sharing by introducing different investigative reports conducted by Ming Pao over the past few years, some of which included the rigged purchases of Henderson Land's luxurious residential, the privatization plan of PCCW, vote rigging in the district council election, the death of Li Wang-yang and the abused usage of entertainment funds by the ex-chief of ICAC, Timothy Tong, during his term of office.

However, The piece that created the biggest controversy and impact in society was the investigative report on the illegal structures of the Chief Executive election candidates in 2012.

According to Mr. Chi, "it is common to find illegal structures in the city, but standing on the moral high ground, Chief Executive candidates should defend the law. In this case, they failed to do so."

An estate reporter in Mr. Chi's investigative team was told from an architect that there were illegal basements in some villas located in Kowloon Tong. The villa located on York Road and belonging to one of the Chief Executive candidates, Mr Henry Tang, was one of them.

Mr Chi's team tried to track down the sources to prove the illegal basement's existence.

As they assumed Mr. Tang's cellar was used to store wine, they planned to send a few bottles as a gift to him. By helping to transport the wine into the cellar, they aimed to obtain some useful information.

But their plan failed because of the very smart housekeeper in Mr. Tang's flat who answered the door.

They sent letters to the PR of Mr. Tang to obtain information about the basement, however they denied the existence of the cellar.

In order to get more information about it, Mr Chi's team flew a remote controlled helicopter over York Road to take bird's-eye view pictures. They also tried talking to the construction workers who had worked at the site and knew about the cellar. After that, Mr. Chi's team sent letters to the PR

of Mr Tang, which alerted the PR about the matter.

The case soon broke out in the media and the politicians concerned lost their credibility.

Mr. Chi indicated that there is a growing concern involving the problem of resources. "More and more experienced reporters left and the new reporters who had just worked for eight to nine months were like boy scouts and girl guides. They have great passion but don't know what they are doing."

As a professional reporter who has been working as a journalist since 1994, Mr Chi thinks reporters are becoming like the paparazzi, causing news to become infotainment. "It may be the time for media to go back to its origin. False information cannot last long, only news can stand."

"People need reliable information. If news always remains fraudulent, society will become distorted and restless. We should be more incisive," he added.

When asked about the future of the newspaper during the Q&A session of his sharing, Mr Chi predicted the newspaper

industry is dying because of the development of the internet and mobile apps. "Print media is needed because it can report news in a more subtle way. But 'plagiarism' has become 'sharing' within the social media."

But he disagreed on allowing free access to all online news. "Free news on Facebook and Housenews originate from paid information provided by traditional newspaper or upstream information sources such as Reuters. Resources are needed for

providing valuable information. So in the short run, we will not unlock those paid news on websites."

One of the most interesting questions asked by the audience was about how Ming Pao is described as Foxconn and what Mr Chi's opinion on that was. His reply was very straightforward.

He admitted that it is factory servitude and the ecology of the media industry is exhausted. "Even if we report on exclusive news, it cannot be turned into money. Instead, all we can get is a 'share' and a 'like' (in the social media). The market environment will force us to change in the future."

He did not agree that new comers should endure the industry because of dreams. "I encourage my colleagues to study postgraduate degrees and advance their studies to leave the backdoor open. I believe the number of reporters in the whole industry will drop in the future. When people can get information for free everywhere, who will pay for it?"

by Aske Cheong

It may be the time
for media to go back
to the origin. False
information cannot
last long, only news
can stand."

"Phot
reco
exac
they
but ou
can

An eye-opening assassination

Mr Thomas Fuller

A double award winning journalist speaks of lessons learned from witnessing death occur right before his feet

Native New Yorker and recipient of two SOPA awards, Mr Thomas Fuller, shared how his experience in a first-world battlefield broadened and sharpened his sense of reporting.

Speaking in front of a throng of students, professors and visitors at Hong Kong Baptist University, Mr Fuller, an international reporter based in Southeast Asia for the New York Times, held a session called "Facts are tricky things: how the assassination of a Thai general chanted my understanding of reporting."

As the last few remaining seats in the hall were filled, Mr Fuller began to introduce himself to the audience. Several minutes later, a female student abruptly burst into the room, uttered a nonsensical sentence and then left as quickly as she came.

Seemingly undeterred by this strange interruption, Mr Fuller carried on speaking for a few more minutes until, out of the blue, he asked the audience if they remembered what

that female student had said.

Only one brave student attempted to recall what she had heard, but failed to provide an accurate account.

Mr Fuller proceeded to tell his audience why paying attention to detail and your senses are important. The fact that no one could recall what the female student was saying, where she was standing, what she was wearing or how long she was there for demonstrates how easy it is to forget simple details, he said.

He admitted that he had planned for the student to interrupt his session to help him explain his point.

In 2011, Mr Fuller was posted in Bangkok, where he wrote "Crisis in Bangkok" which won the SOPA Award for Excellence in Reporting Breaking News. He won another award for Excellence in Investigative Reporting for "Behind Myanmar Inc."

It was in the capital of Thailand, during the height of political unrest on May 13, 2012, that Mr Fuller grabbed the opportunity to ask a Thai Renegade General some questions. Just minutes into the interview, the general was assassinated. Mr Fuller watched in horror as the General

os can
d things
ctly as
were,
r minds
not."

*Mr Thomas Fuller
shares his experience
reporting political
unrest in Thailand*

fell backwards onto the ground, dead at his feet.

Mr Fuller said at that point of time he was dazed, shocked and completely unprepared. He links this to the interruption of the female student, saying many things are either easy to remember or forget, depending on whether you are paying attention to your senses.

He believes journalists need to observe and see what they are looking at. "You want to develop instincts because we're not born with reporter instincts," he said. "I know it sounds very basic, but our eyes take in so much more than we realize, they see things that don't even get computed until we work that muscle."

Actively using a camera is also a good way to observe what is around you to help you remember things, he said. "Photos can record things exactly as they were, but our minds cannot." The use of digital recordings and listening devices are equally important. "Don't trust yourself. If you can record it, report it," he said.

Working for the International Herald Tribune and NYT in Bangkok, Brussels, Kuala Lumpur and Paris, Mr Fuller

discussed how his experience has taught him that to be a journalist requires a certain kind of person with several important characteristics.

Firstly, what he learned from his experience in Thailand is that being short is good to prevent getting shot in the head by a sniper, he said, as he half-joked with the audience.

Having covered the Iraq war and the Arab Springs, to name a few, Mr Fuller said identifying who is lying to you is the second most important thing which he came to find when working abroad. "I think journalists must have a sixth sense to tell who is telling the truth," he said.

Mr Fuller also encouraged journalists to never hesitate when asking a question you do not know the answer to. "Lawyers do not ask questions they do not know the answers to, but journalists are only asking questions to which they do not know the answers to," he said.

After nearly two hours of talking and answering questions, Mr Fuller surveyed the audience with a satisfied smile. As a queue to leave, he ended his session saying, "You have suffered enough!"

by Caleb Norton

十二月五日 國際義工日

義工多謝您

行

義

我

生

活

電話：2546 0694 網址：www.avso.org.hk

請加入義工行列

Place Your
AD Here and
*Be Seen by
People Like
You and Us
and those who
like us, too.*

editors@tyr.hk

*The Young Reporter
run by HKBU journalism students since
1969*

Canon

Delighting You Always

viva FREEDOM!

融入EOS影像智慧 自由轉換逾60款EF/EF-S鏡頭

- / 1,800萬像素APS-C CMOS影像感應器
- / 多點觸控式3吋104萬點Clear View II LCD螢幕
- / 高速DIGIC 5數碼影像處理器
- / 混合式CMOS自動對焦系統，配合STM鏡頭
- / 廣闊感光度可擴展至ISO 25600
- 短片拍攝更靜更流暢

EOS M



佳能香港有限公司成功榮膺ISO9001:2008・ISO14001:2004・OHSAS18001:2007 佳能香港有限公司 本地銷售辦事處 九龍紅磡都會道10號都會大廈19樓
Canon Pro Solution Hub 九龍尖沙咀彌敦道26號17樓 Canon Image² 佳能數碼影像坊・佳能客戶服務中心 九龍尖沙咀彌敦道63號國際廣場20樓 | 熱線: 3191 2333

EOS M

SEARCH