



2 津國雙驕 兩名在香港綻放異彩的非洲學生
Zimbabwe's Power Duo
Two African students take centre stage in Hong Kong and beyond



提起非洲，港人大多感到陌生，生活中更鮮有機會認識來自那片遙遠土地的人。現時，居港非裔人口約有三千人，中大則有十名非洲學生。在校園屬極少數的他們，緣何來此叢爾小島，有着怎樣的思想感情？來自非洲南部國家津巴布韋的人類學四年級生 **Innocent Mutanga** 和法律二年級生 **Myrmidon Kangara**，一位積極帶領人們認識和關懷社會弱勢，推動公義；一位辯才精湛，演說情理並茂，觸動人心。在本地社會和校園中，他們雖為少數，卻一枝獨秀，在各自的舞台上發熱發亮，向香港以至世界宣示他們的美麗、獨特與優秀。

世界任我行—— Innocent Mutanga

認識一個人，可以從名字開始。單純的名字，卻蘊含一段複雜的家國歷史：津巴布韋雖於上世紀六零年代脫離英國殖民統治，但後者文化已深植津國土壤。為了讓傳教士老師讀得出名字，祖父以

英文為 **Innocent** 起名。文化碰撞、順應時局、變中求存，自此成為他生命的主調。天資聰敏的 **Innocent** 從小名列前茅，中學畢業即獲政府頒發獎學金赴美國攻讀精算、物理和哲學。2013年暑假，他回到大選前的津國，為結束當權者的鐵腕統治奔走，結果遭綁架。僥倖逃脫的他無處可去，站在熙來攘往的機場，發現入境香港無需簽證，遂決定登機一搏。

天之驕子歷劫來港，如入凡塵：他曾托身尖沙咀重慶大廈，也曾躑躅街頭，在寒冷的冬夜等待天明。人在異鄉，處境艱難，唯一不變的是他的赤子之心，讓他在險難中進退從容，保持樂觀。他使出在美讀書時的本領，靠補習英文和編輯報考大學的自述文章賺取生計，閒時又運用天賦的精明頭腦鑽研快餐配搭，替食客購餐，並以同等價錢多買一份餐飲，或儲下零錢。

人類學裏悟人生

在港漸漸站穩陣腳的 **Innocent**，建立起自己的生活圈子，抵步時入住的重慶大廈，成為他常去的地方。他更在此結識了專研重慶



在學校講授非洲文化
Teaching African cultures at schools

Source: Inter Cultural Education

To most people in Hong Kong, the distant African continent is either a mystery or an unknown. At present, there are about 3,000 Africans living in Hong Kong, with CUHK hosting 10 African students. What draws them here, and how do they think and feel? The stories of two students from Zimbabwe may give us a hint. A Year 4 anthropology student, **Innocent Mutanga** champions the cause of social justice through awakening the public to the conditions and needs of the marginalized and the vulnerable in society. **Myrmidon Kangara**, a Year 2 law student, is a champion of the spoken words who wins arguments and hearts. The minority of minority, they do not take the backstage but show Hong Kong and beyond how distinguished they are in words and deeds.

The World is Innocent Mutanga's Oyster

To learn about a person, one starts with the name. The very innocence denoted by **Innocent's** name belies a complex and harrowing time in Zimbabwe's history. The African country was a British colony before its independence in the sixties. To help missionary teachers pronounce the name, **Innocent's** grandfather decided to give the child an English name. It's as if he's singled out for the clashes of cultures and the struggles for surviving changing times and places. Always at the top of his

class, **Innocent** was awarded a government scholarship upon finishing high school to go to the US to study actuarial science, physics and philosophy. In the summer of 2013, he flew back to his home country on the eve of the general election in support of ending the then current regime's iron-fist rule. His political involvement led to him being kidnapped and his friends getting killed. He managed a narrow escape but found he had nowhere to go to. It's only at the bustling airport that he found out Hong Kong did not require a visa and so he decided to take a chance.

A hard landing awaited him in Hong Kong. He once took up abode in Tsim Sha Tsui's Chungking Mansions (a mansion only in name), and there were times when he strolled the night streets to ward off sleep and cold in the winter months. The trying circumstances, however, did not break him. He made a living by teaching English and editing college application essays for students. Putting his natural resourcefulness and actuarial training to good use, **Innocent** even advised customers of fast-food restaurants on orders that saved money or food or both, and sometimes for himself as well.

Anthropology as a Way of Life

Innocent soon settled in and began to build his own circle. He frequented the Chungking Mansions where he met Prof. **Gordon Mathews**, chairman of CUHK's Department of Anthropology,

大廈的中大人類學系主任麥高登教授和一群人類學系學生，並參與他們的研討會。連場關於國籍、文化和語言的討論，有如人類學的入門課；與一位碩士生的一席話，更令Innocent眼界大開，見識到人類學的縱深寬廣，進而決定修讀。「人類學涵蓋古今，研究不同飲食、語言、文化、人物……這不正是離家別國的我所經歷的？我的人生像為學習人類學度身設計一樣。」他指，人類學對他來說，是非常重要的教育，「人類學強調放眼世界，與人接觸，讓理科出身、慣在數字裏打轉的我發展更為均衡，也使我學懂謙虛，活得更踏實，學會將心比心、體會他人的處境，照顧社會被遺忘的一群。」

在人類學的世界，他貫徹黑色肌膚給他的祝福和使命，研究和關注如身為難民、同時又是女性等多重弱勢人士。他的畢業論文考察中國對沖基金，探視其行業道德。「中國將會引領世界，但很多人都對其道德狀況心存戒懼。要弄清這個問題，我們何不找出整個國家牽涉最多金錢利益

的地方——比如對沖基金，審視它的道德規範，從而一窺究竟？」

君子豹變意縱橫

非洲之子將人生傾注學問裏，他的學習，卻從不囿於課室。身為中大英語辯論隊成員，他一手籌辦本年1月舉行的聯校人權辯論比賽；校園以外，2017年他與一名台灣女生創辦「流浪之聲」平台，讓外籍傭工、難民與少數族裔等弱勢群體述故事訴心聲，更於各大、中小學舉辦文化交流活動和座談會。平台迴響廣泛，文章廣獲議員援引，特首亦曾回應有關內容，大學新聞系、中小學的演講邀請整年不輟。2019年伊始，長年關注中非關係的Innocent效法駐非美國大使館的「美國中心」，成立「香港非洲中心」，舉辦讀書會和座談會，讓世人認識真正的非洲。

嘗過卑微的人，會對別人的痛苦變得敏感。在為「流浪之聲」撰寫文章時，他曾訪問一位非洲模特兒，對方在白人主

導的業界遭受歧視的經歷，激發他與友人籌辦「Harmony」時裝音樂匯演，展示被主流社會埋沒的美麗與才華。活動去年12月在蘭桂坊舉行，由模特兒、時裝、音樂以至演出流程均由難民和少數族裔一手包辦，大受歡迎。現時「Harmony」已變身為社會企業，每年舉辦兩次匯演，更即將推出由難民設計師設計的一系列T恤，讓他們發揮才華之餘同時教育大眾。

Innocent的姓氏Mutanga，在修納語意為「第一」，他不畏艱難，甚至遇難則喜，走在眾人之先的魄力和勇氣，也許早流淌在其血液之中。理性的他，思維周密如水銀瀉地，雙眼在言談間煥發光采，談及以往難過的日子，絲毫沒有感傷。只有當提及他的家人——早逝的父親和身在津國的母親和祖母，這位早慧的人類學家、準投資銀行家便會放緩語調，眼神掠過一抹難言的憂傷：「我想念母親和祖母，祖母煮的肉卷，真的『好好食』。」

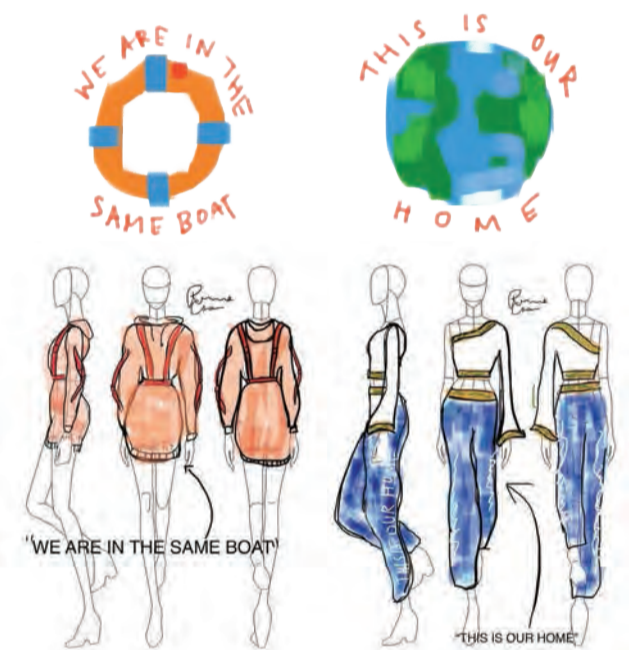
家的滋味，不用讀人類學，自懂得，自難忘。



往內地考察對沖基金運作，Innocent路經上海人民公園相親角。自小被譽為「神童」的他，廣受青睞，不少津國女孩的父母都希望有此佳婿。時地雖變，情與貌，略相似
Passing by the 'marriage market' at People's Park in Shanghai during a field trip there to research on Chinese hedge funds. Considered a child prodigy, Innocent was the ideal husband to the daughters of many Zimbabwean parents



於香港大學舉辦展覽和分享會，介紹在港難民、少數族裔和外籍傭工的生活、文化、宗教和藝術
Hosting the 'Migration and Aspiration' exhibition at the University of Hong Kong, introducing the lives, cultures, religions and arts of the refugees, ethnic minorities and domestic workers in Hong Kong



「Harmony」T恤圖案和設計草稿。「同坐一船」構思源自難民乘船的驚險回憶
T-shirt prints and fashion design drafts by Harmony. The featuring of boat is inspired by the refugees' horrid boat-taking memories

and his students. He joined in their discussions about nationality, culture and language and was duly initiated to the discipline. A conversation with a master's student opened his eye to the subject's extraordinary breadth and depth and helped him make up his mind. 'Anthropology studies things present and past, and is about different food, languages, cultures and peoples... these are no strange things in my life. Am I not cut out for anthropology?' He went on to explain that anthropology is very important education to him, 'Anthropology casts its sight on the exotic and emphasizes mixing with the local. It's a counterweight to my training in mathematics and physics so far. It teaches me humility, to think and feel as others do and take care of the neglected.'

Once he threw himself into anthropology, Innocent was true to his colours and embraced research into the multiple disadvantaged identities, for example, being both refugee and female. For the final year thesis, he takes upon the Chinese hedge funds, studying its moral compass and the socio-historical context in which they make decisions. 'China is going to lead the world, but many people are apprehensive about its moral standing. To figure this out, what better way is there than to study the moral grounds of its hedge funds where the nation's money and interests are at stake?'

A Rising Phoenix Straddling all Worlds

Out of Africa, Innocent plunged right into the world of knowledge, but his classroom has more than four walls. As a member of the CUHK English Debating Team, he pulled off the joint-university Human Rights Debate Competition this January. Beyond the campus, he co-founded The Wandering Voice, an online platform where domestic helpers, refugees and ethnic minorities can tell their stories, with a Taiwanese friend studying journalism in Hong Kong. The platform was so well-received that its stories were frequently cited by lawmakers and the Chief Executive responded to its report on refugee children. Invitations flew in all year round from journalism schools and schools on all levels. Stepping into 2019, Innocent founded the Africa Center Hong Kong to bring the real Africa to the world by organizing book clubs and forums.

Those who have tasted the gall of life will understand others' pains and sufferings better. In an interview with an African model for a story in The Wandering Voice, Innocent learned of the injustices she suffered in a predominantly white fashion industry. He then co-founded the 'Harmony' fashion and music show. Held in Lan Kwai Fong last December, the show, which was run by refugees and ethnic minorities from modelling,

fashion, music to the rundown, was greeted with a large turnout. Harmony has since metamorphosed into a social enterprise that runs the refugee-curated gala twice a year. A T-shirt collection designed by refugee fashion designers will soon be launched, showcasing their talents and educating the public about the socially disenfranchised.

Innocent's family name Mutanga means 'being the first' in Shona. His intrepidity—or, in his words, 'the excitement he feels of solving difficult problems'—and his pioneering spirit may have been in his blood. He has a mind that turns as quickly as mercury, and his eyes would give out a lively spark whenever an interesting idea gets hold of him. Even when touching upon past hardships, the enterprising youth remained impassive. Only when talking about his family—the father he lost at a tender age, and his mother and grandmother in Zimbabwe—would the precocious anthropologist and investment banker-to-be begin to soften, when a tinge of profound, inexplicable sadness shot through his big round eyes. 'I miss my mother and grandmother. The meat roll made by my grandmother was really *ho ho sik* (Cantonese meaning extremely yummy).'

The memories of one's family can be savoured without any anthropological knowledge.

理智與感情—— Myrmidon Kangara

希臘神話裏，「Myrmidon」原是阿基里斯麾下一支勇武神兵。一位喜愛希臘神話的母親，以此為女兒命名。由神話到現實，這位津國女兒一樣傳奇：她談笑用兵，卻不像傳說中的馬密頓人唯命是從，欠缺獨立思考。心繫社會而修讀法律的她，能言善辯，才識過人，入學不久已於中大英語演講比賽嶄露頭角，成為冠軍人馬，其後更再下一城，於去年12月初北京舉行的「外研社·國才杯」五日四輪馬拉松式全國英語演講大賽，擊敗全中國一百九十名演辯高手，以離冠軍零點八分之差奪亞榮歸。

眼前的Myrmidon，成熟踏實、說話乾脆利落，聽到讚賞和談起一些生活點滴和趣事時，便會嬌憨地笑起來，泛出一種夢幻感，提醒你她還只是個十九歲的小妮子。但談笑過後，做起事來，這位女生熨貼無比，認真得令人折服。訪問

完結時，筆者曾請Myrmidon補寄資料，翌日即收到她簡短回覆，稱彙集整理需時，請筆者稍等。她之後寄來長達十頁的履歷，將曾參與的活動一一分類，日期、崗位、職責等資訊齊備，二十張相片悉數冠以描述，另清楚以要點澄清訪問提及的細節。大將之風不限於講臺，也深入日常。

說出來的責任

在臺上盡展鋒芒的她，不說不知曾是害羞的「灰姑娘」。自言內向的她，中學時有加入公開演說的學會，但並不活躍；遇見想參與的活動和比賽，她卻因為害羞踟躕不前，一次又一次與機會擦身而過。「來中大後，我覺得不可再封閉自己，要走出來，表達自己所想。」挑戰公開演說，源於知不足；令她一往而深，潛心鑽研箇中之道的，是一份對社會人生的責任感：「我喜歡集思廣益——今日我們面對的許多問題，其實都值得和需要我們坐下來細談，然後付諸行動。如果你擅長公開演說，你便能發表想法，裨益討論。反過來

看，如果你見思精微，卻沒有勇氣宣之於口，這便是對自己和他人最大的浪費。」

化被動為主動，攻克的是心理關口，但演說的技藝要如何精進？Myrmidon稱除了恆常練習，還要多觀察，從日常生活如課堂、書院演講，甚至電視人物的談吐汲取養分。對於有志增進說話技巧的人，她認為要先習慣面對面與人溝通，「可參加一些學會，如遠足等，不一定是辯論。自在一點後便可參與國際演講會的小組，大家互相學習、扶持。」她指與人接觸很重要，因演說涵蓋廣泛，別人的心得經驗可為靈感和珍貴素材。

少即是美，尋求共鳴

說回比賽，Myrmidon謂此次取得佳績，她的教練、英語教學單位三名老師李思華博士、梁潔芝女士和張悅瑩女士功不可沒。要數從她們身上得到的最大得着，是甚麼呢？「嗯，是演說中，表達比概念更重要。概念不要太多、太複雜，要



在台上舌劍唇槍
Crossing verbal swords on stage



Myrmidon的三位良師（由左至右）：梁潔芝女士、張悅瑩女士和李思華博士
Heroes behind the stage (from left to right): Ms. Ella Leung, Ms. Olive Cheung and Dr. Sarah Lee

Sense and Sensibility— Myrmidon Kangara

In Greek mythology, the myrmidons are a fierce tribe fighting under Achilles in the Trojan War. For her fondness of Hellenic tales, a mother decided to name her daughter after the valorous people. From myth to reality, this daughter of Zimbabwe is little short of legendary: with mere words she subdues and inspires, but unlike the myrmidons known for their unquestioning subservience, Myrmidon is a social-minded individual who chooses law as her vocation. Possessing great oratorical skills and a strong knowledge base, she landed champion of the CUHK English Public Speaking Competition as a freshman. In the 'FLTRP • ETIC Cup' five-day four-round marathon English speaking contest held in Beijing last December, Myrmidon bested 190 top orators across the country and took home the first runner-up, just 0.8 mark behind the champion.

Right before my eyes, Myrmidon was mature and spoke no-nonsense. She had a crisp manner of speaking, and upon hearing compliments or when talking about life's tidbits, she would give coy smiles and infect the surrounding air with an innocent dreaminess, reminding one that she was still just a 19-year-old girl. But when

she rolls up her sleeves, this girl covers so much ground that no room is left for complaint: as the interview drew to a close, the writer requested her to send in some information. The next day Myrmidon wrote in a short note, explaining that she needed some time to compile the data and they would be ready shortly. What the writer received later was a 10-page curriculum vitae detailing all clubs and activities she had joined, with all the dates, positions and responsibilities neatly put. The 20 photos she sent in all came with descriptions, together with illustrations in points clarifying the finer details arising in the interview. She did not only inspire confidence on the podium but also in everyday life.

The Responsibility to Speak Up

Few could have guessed that the queen on stage as we see now was once a Cinderella fettered miserably by her own shyness. Describing herself as 'definitely introverted', Myrmidon joined a couple of public speaking clubs in high school, though she was never an active member. Back then she came across a lot of contests and activities that she took an interest in, but she was too timid to speak in front of people and give them a try. 'As I got into CUHK, I realized the continuing of this trend would be detrimental. If I am to get out of the shell, I need to learn to speak in public.' Picking up the gauntlet of public speaking was driven by necessity, but what fuels her

passion for the oratorical art is a sense of responsibility to life and society. 'I like the idea of people sharing ideas—I think many problems we have today require us to sit down, talk things over, and then go out and get it done. If you can speak in public, you can share ideas. On the contrary, if you have good ideas but remain reticent, then it is not going to do anyone any good.'

It may be more than a mental break, but how does one perfect one's skill in the art of public speaking? Myrmidon pointed out that, regular practice aside, observation also plays a crucial role. A speaker needs to learn her trade from everyday life, say in lectures, college assemblies or even from watching a movie or sit-com, paying heed to how people speak. To people who aspire to improve their speaking skills, Myrmidon suggested they should first try to get used to talking face-to-face with other people. 'They can join a club, say a hiking club, which does not need to be about debating. As they grow in confidence, they can try Toastmasters.' She stressed that socializing with others is important, as debate covers a wide range of topics and others' personal experiences can be a rich source to draw on.

Less is More, Resonance Rocks

Back to the public speaking competition, Myrmidon attributed her good result to the immense help and support she received from her coaches, the three teachers

取其精華，慢慢表述，讓聽眾明白，甚至聽得如沐春風。只有當別人明白你所說的，才有機會與之共鳴。」

演說的最高境界是情感共鳴，這也是Myrmidon此次出征領悟的：「颱風來了，若你只陳述應對方案，別人會無動於衷；但若你指出人們正在水深火熱之中，我們要伸出援手，因為我們本為一體，這樣便能打動人心，令人追隨。演說要說之以理，更要動之以情，因人皆有情感，若你能進入他們的內心，牽動他們的悲喜，你便能獲取所有。」

莎士比亞《凱撒大帝》的安東尼，藉感性的修辭扭轉乾坤、奪得權力，箇中竅門，Myrmidon作為演說者和法律學生，心裏清楚；但在辯題要求和當事人利益以外，布魯圖斯的直白與誠懇，則是她的立命之所。在「外研社·國才杯」演講比賽總決賽以「世界」為題的即席演說中，Myrmidon指出世界是理性和感性交織的場所，只有兩者攜手，如以科學糾正偏執，以宗教引導解決科學帶來的道德爭議，人類才能走進美好。演說與做人，講求的是理智與感情的

分寸拿捏，要無悔無憾，關鍵是擁有一顆善良和柔軟的心。

這顆心Myrmidon擁有。在演辯世界裏，她追隨馬丁路德金、麥爾坎·X和小說家奇瑪曼達·阿迪契的腳步，除了以情感召，也提出行動綱領，讓演說不只是漂亮的說辭。愛寫作和閱讀的她，閒來寫詩也會以社會公義為主題。詩詞和演說看似站在情與理的兩端，但她認為兩者有相通之處：「將很多意念放進一篇短短的演講之中，恰如詩歌，要將意念凝鑄在字裏行間，且句與句要有所連繫。」演說，不就是Myrmidon獻給世界的一篇篇情詩？

尼日利亞作家齊魯瓦·阿切比在小說《神箭》寫道：「世界仿如一場面具舞會，如果要看清全貌，便不能只站一隅。」千里迢迢到異地求學，為的就是開闊眼界，獲取真知。然而留學僅為形式，更重要是開放心靈，欣然接受途上的挑戰和喜悲。Innocent和Myrmidon兩位津國少年，緣結香港和中大，千山歷遍，收穫成長。他們的多采經歷會否為你帶來啟發，走出舒適區，來一趟世界或心靈的旅行？



在「外研社·國才杯」演講比賽，Myrmidon得不少好友襄助，其中兩位為四川工商學院劉昱希（左），「外研社·國才杯」和「21世紀·可口可樂杯」兩項大賽冠軍、曲阜師範大學臧英傑（右），小妮子銘記於心
During the FLTRP • ETIC Cup contest, Myrmidon made friends with quite a few contestants and received a lot of help from them. Among them are Liu Yuxi (left) from Sichuan Technology and Business University and Jason Zang (right) from Qufu Normal University, who is also champion of both FLTRP • ETIC Cup and 21st Century Coca-Cola Cup English speaking contests

at the English Language Teaching Unit—Dr. **Sarah Lee**, Ms. **Ella Leung** and Ms. **Olive Cheung**. What is the biggest lesson she learned from them? 'Well, it's that in public speaking, delivery matters more than ideas. Speak slowly and to the points, do not bombard the audience with complex or too many ideas, make sure they understand or even enjoy your speech. Only when they understand what you are saying can they connect and agree with you.'

Myrmidon also took home from the mainland contest the lesson that consummate public speaking is winning the hearts of the audience. 'Let's say the monsoon is coming. If you just give a plan on how we are going to protect the people, it's not going to win over the crowd. But if you say people are drowning, let us help everyone because we are one united family, people will bond with it emotionally. Focus on the content, and more so the emotion, because at the end of the day, people are emotional beings. If you can get to their emotions, then the audience is yours.'

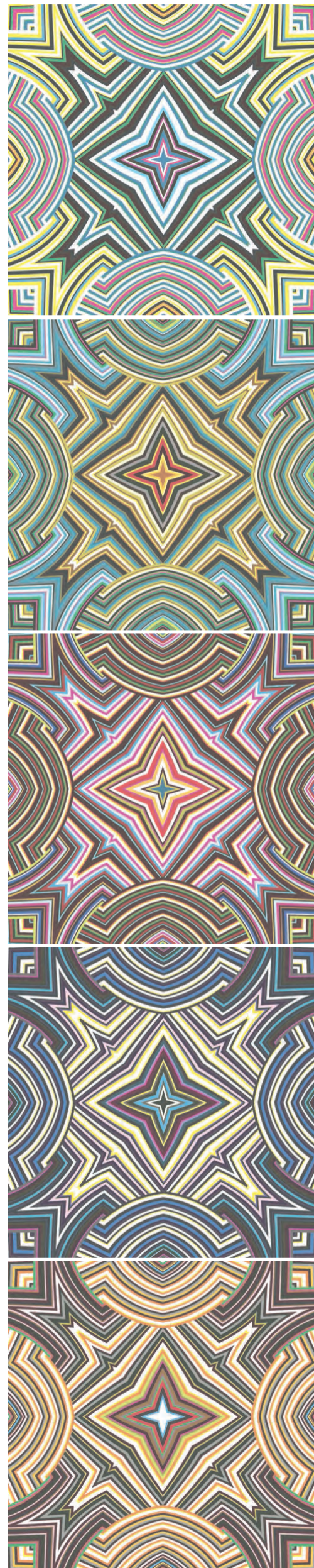
How Antony uses his rhetoric to turn the tides in Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* is not lost to the orator and law student Myrmidon. But Brutus's sincerity and speaking from the heart in the same play are what she abides by. In the impromptu speaking round of the grand finale of the 'FLTRP • ETIC Cup' contest where the finalists were asked to explain what the world is to them, Myrmidon put forward the view that the world is a mix of sense and sensibility. Only when they go hand in hand, such as using science to rectify prejudices, or religion to resolve

the moral crises brought about by scientific progresses can mankind obtain peace. How to speak in public and how to live one's life are all about treading the fine line between sense and sensibility, guided by a kind and grateful heart.

And Myrmidon possesses a kind and grateful heart. In the world of public speaking, her role models are Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and the novelist **Chimamanda Adichie**, who impressed billions with not just their beautiful rhetorics and passions but also concrete plans which people can follow to bring about changes. An avid reader and a writer of poetry herself, Myrmidon tackles issues of social justice in her poems. Poetry and public speaking appear to stand in the pole positions of emotion and reason, but she sees the two have something in common: 'You put a lot of ideas organically into a speech, just like in a poem every word, line or even space counts.' Aren't her speeches her love poetry to the world?

Nigerian writer Chinua Achebe writes in his novel *Arrow of God*: 'The world is like a Mask dancing. If you want to see it well you do not stand in one place.' Going abroad and pursuing knowledge are often Siamese twins. Yet going abroad is simply the first step; what matters is to open one's heart and mind to embrace the trials and tribulations along the way. Innocent and Myrmidon have come from Zimbabwe and met at Hong Kong and CUHK. Their extraordinary stories will surely inspire many other travelogues of the soul. 📖

Amy L.



破解血漿DNA密碼

由無創產檢到癌症檢測

Deciphering the Codes in Plasma DNA

From Non-invasive Prenatal Test to Cancer Screening

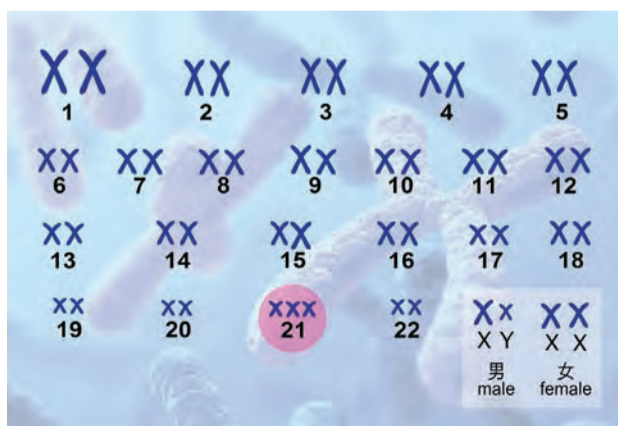


希臘神話中，西西弗斯使計誘騙死神戴上手銬，最終被諸神懲罰，要把大石推上斜坡，但大石到了山頂卻會掉下來，西西弗斯又要再次推石上山。如此日復日、年復年，永無止境。科研之路也是如此，科學家每天在茫茫中探索，時而匍匐前進，時而推倒重來，也許窮一生而徒勞。中大醫學院副院長（研究）**盧煜明**教授同樣堅持自己的信念，縱然科研路上困難重重，數十年後，終把石頭推上高峰。盧教授於2月15日主講第二場「智慧的探索」公開講座系列，分享科研的挑戰和樂趣，吸引約二百名中大師生、校友、中學生及公眾人士出席。

2011年以前，如果要在產前檢查胎兒有沒有唐氏綜合症，只能透過入侵性的羊膜穿刺術（俗稱「抽羊水」），直接從胎兒身上取得遺傳物質來檢測，但孕婦會有0.5%至1%的流產風險。就在2011年，盧煜明教授研發的無創唐氏綜合症產前診斷技術（T21）開始臨床應用，只需抽取孕婦的血液檢驗便可，準媽媽不再有恐懼，可以安心接受檢查。至今T21已獲全球超過九十個國家採用，數以百萬孕婦受惠。

盧教授早於牛津大學攻讀醫學博士學位時，已有意研究無創產檢。然而，母親和胎兒各自有血液循環系統，雖然孕婦的血液蘊藏胎兒的細胞，但數量極少，要抽取這些細胞檢驗猶如大海撈針。盧教授深信，奧妙就在孕婦血液中，但茫無頭緒。之後八年，盧教授也不得要領。

1997年，盧教授回流香港加入中大，他的研究有突破進展。當時有研究指出癌細胞會在血漿釋放其DNA，盧教授得到啟發：「既然小小腫瘤會釋放DNA，那麼幾磅的胎兒是否會在血漿中釋出DNA？」這一次，他對了。盧教授發現母體血漿內有胎兒的DNA，這次發現等同打開了醫學研究的寶庫，各種突破隨之而來。



透過檢驗孕婦血漿內胎兒基因的21號染色體，若發現多了一條染色體，便可確診嬰兒患上唐氏綜合症
By detecting the presence of an additional copy of chromosome 21 in foetal DNA in maternal plasma, Down syndrome of baby can be diagnosed

首先，盧教授發現，只要檢驗孕婦血漿內胎兒基因的21號染色體，運用高頻基因排序技術，就可知道胎兒是否患有唐氏綜合症，準確度達99.7%。

檢測血漿中的DNA，不但可應用於產前檢查，還可用來篩查癌症。近年盧教授運用這種技術篩查鼻咽癌，已見成果。鼻咽癌的癌細胞會在血漿中釋出EB病毒，因此盧教授想到分析血漿中EB病毒DNA，便可確定有沒有患上鼻咽癌。研究團隊於2013至2016年間，為二萬零一百七十四名沒有任何鼻咽癌徵狀的香港40至60歲男子進行測試，三百零九人在首次檢查及複檢時均呈陽性反應，當中三十四人最終被確診罹患鼻咽癌，陽性預測值達11%，較一般癌症檢測約3%的高。這項研究結果獲得國際權威醫學期刊《新英倫醫學雜誌》選為「2017年度最受矚目研究文章」之一。

驀然回首，科研路艱，盧教授有八年停滯不前，但他反而為這段空白期感恩：「如果在我做醫學生的時候，就已經在血漿DNA研究中取得成果，我反而不能培養出續航能力。」石頭，終於不再滾下來。

In Greek mythology, Sisyphus was sentenced for cheating Death to the eternal task of pushing a boulder up a hill. The boulder would roll down the hill again just as it reaches the top. Such futile and thankless labour is not entirely unknown to the scientists whose pursuits are mostly motivated by their love and passions for scientific inquiries. Prof. **Dennis Lo**, Associate Dean (Research) of CUHK Faculty of Medicine, talked about his labour of love under 'The Joys and Challenges of Scientific Research' in the second part of 'The Pursuit of Wisdom' Public Lecture Series on 15 February, drawing around 200 CUHK staff members and students, alumni, secondary school students and members of the public.

Before 2011, to detect whether their babies might have Down syndrome, pregnant women had no choice but to undergo amniocentesis, which directly draws fluids from inside the mother's body for chromosomal study. Such invasive diagnostic method, however, is associated with a 0.5–1.0% risk of miscarriage. Since 2011, a non-invasive foetal DNA test for Down syndrome (T21) developed by Professor Lo has come into clinical use. The test simply takes blood samples from the pregnant women for analysis and thus rids them of the risk of miscarriage. Currently, T21 is applied in more than 90 countries and has benefitted millions of pregnant women.

Professor Lo had the idea of developing non-invasive prenatal test when he was a doctoral medical student at Oxford University. However, since the mother and

the foetus have separate blood circulation systems, the number of foetal cells that can be found in the mother's blood was very few. Getting hold of these cells in the mother's blood is like looking for a needle in a haystack. Although Professor Lo believed that the answer lies in the mother's blood, he could not quite figure it out and had to wait.

In 1997, Professor Lo returned to Hong Kong and joined CUHK. His research has since proceeded in leaps and bounds. He was inspired by some research that proved that cancer cells would release their DNAs into the patient's plasma and he thought, 'If a tiny tumour cell would release its DNAs into the patient's plasma, then would it be possible that a foetus of much larger size releases its DNAs into the mother's plasma?' Professor Lo later proved his hypothesis and discovered cell-free foetal DNAs in maternal plasma. His discovery is the gateway to a number of breakthroughs later.

First, Professor Lo found that checking chromosome 21 of the foetus's DNAs in the mother's plasma with massively parallel genomic sequencing technique could reveal whether the baby has Down syndrome. The accuracy rate can be as high as 99.7%.

The plasma DNA analysis can not only be applied in prenatal tests but also cancer screening. From 2013 to 2016, Professor Lo and his team conducted a study of screening nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC) using plasma DNA analysis and the result is promising. By detecting the Epstein-Barr virus DNA, which is released by NPC tumour cells into the patient's plasma, early diagnosis of NPC can be achieved. Professor Lo's study involved 20,174 Chinese males aged between 40 and 60 without NPC symptoms. Among them, 309 participants had tested positive on the initial and follow-up blood tests and 34 were diagnosed with NPC. The predictive value is 11%, higher than the average of 3% of normal cancer screenings. The research was selected by *The New England Journal of Medicine* as one of the most 'Notable Articles of 2017'.

The road of scientific research is indeed intriguing and strange. Professor Lo did not make much headway for some years but he did not view it as a period entirely of no consequence. 'If I had achieved a breakthrough in my plasma DNA research when I was still a medical student, I would not have developed tenacity.' The boulder finally comes to rest on the top.

M. Mak



國際數學競賽奪冠

CUHK Ranks First in International Mathematics Competition

SMMC數學競賽2017年在澳洲成立，2018年共有亞太區逾四十家大學近九百名學生參加。中大派出二十六名本科生組隊出戰，其中二十一人主修數學。郭敏怡（右）和李信明（左）於雙人賽取得第一名，董鑫泉和黃俊誠取得第三名，沈健昊於個人賽奪得第二名。中大總分最高，榮獲大學獎首名。



The Simon Marais Mathematics Competition (SMMC), established in Australia in 2017, drew participation from nearly 900 students from more than 40 universities across the Asia-Pacific region. The CUHK team, consisting of 26 undergraduate students (21 of them majoring in mathematics), has proven themselves to be top mathematics problem solvers. Mandy Kwok (right) and Samuel Lee (left) won the first place of the Pairs Prize while Tung Kam-chuen and Wong Chun-shing took the third. Shen Jianhao acquired the second place of the Individual Prize. Having the highest total score, CUHK got the first place of the University Prize.

齊心出戰馬拉松

Team Up for Marathon

超過二千五百名中大學生、教職員和校友出戰2月17日的渣打香港馬拉松2019賽事，是今屆第二支最多參賽人數的隊伍，並連續第七年獲大會頒發「最鼎力支持大獎」。超過三百名啦啦隊隊員在沿途各站為跑手打氣，校方安排的運動醫學團隊則協助跑手賽後舒緩肌肉。大學在賽前製作了短片講解近期流行的高強度間歇訓練，體育運動科學系、體育部及矯形外科及創傷學系的專業導師亦舉辦講座及場地訓練課程。

Over 2,500 students, staff, and alumni of CUHK joined the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2019 on 17 February, making it the second largest team in the competition and recipient of the 'Most Supportive Group Award' for the seventh consecutive year. Over 300 CUHK supporters cheered the runners at several cheering spots along the race routes. The CUHK Sports Medicine Team helped runners with their recovery. Professionals from the Department of Sports Science and Physical Education, Physical Education Unit and the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology conducted seminars and a field training session before the race. A video was produced to introduce the popular high-intensity interval training to runners.

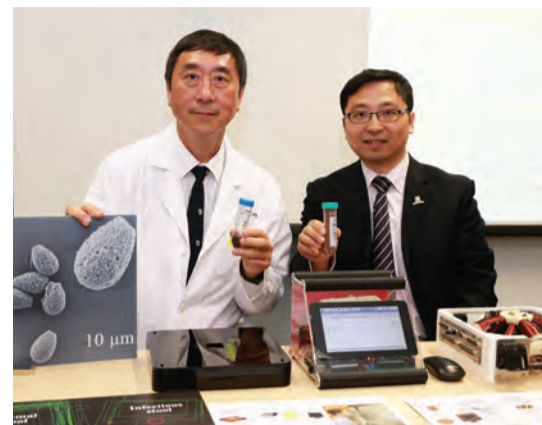


微型機械人十五分鐘驗難辨梭菌毒素

Microrobots Detect Toxins in 15 Minutes

中大工程學院及醫學院的研究團隊近日成功研發一款孢子合成的微型機械人，可用於醫學檢測。只要把微型機械人注入病人的排泄物樣本，最快十五分鐘便可準確檢測難辨梭菌釋出的毒素。現時難辨梭菌的化驗過程普遍需時一至兩日。難辨梭菌感染是最常見的住院期間內腸道感染，其分泌的毒素會引起腹瀉、發燒和大便出血等，少數嚴重個案會引發腹膜炎和敗血症，甚至死亡。服用抗生素的病人、長者、慢性病或炎症性腸病患者容易遭受感染。

A collaborative research team from the Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Medicine has recently developed fungi spore-inspired microrobots to detect *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*) bacterial toxins. The microrobots are active sensors capable of detecting the toxins in stool samples accurately within 15 minutes, based on a specific combination. The current clinical test of the toxins normally takes one to two days. *C. difficile* infection is the most common hospital acquired enteric infection. The toxins secreted by *C. difficile* will cause diarrhoea, fever and hematochezia. In some cases, patients may develop life-threatening peritonitis and sepsis.



教學機械人整裝待發

Gear Up for Pedagogical Robots

機械人擁有人類的外形甚至對話能力，適用於語文教學。然而，市面上的機械人教學軟件或應用程式，均需老師進行複雜的編程和設定。學能提升研究中心正在研發的uReply Robot如手機應用程式般操作簡易，老師只要接受少許訓練，便可自訂不同設定，例如把講義投影片、短片和問題等內容預先下載至機械人，由機械人轉播「授課」，讓老師有更多空間與學生互動，以及帶領學習活動。

The Centre for Learning Enhancement and Research has recently started to develop an application named 'uReply Robot'. Having human-like appearance and the ability of conversation, humanoid robots are applicable to language subjects which require more interaction and engagement from students. Software or applications available in the market, however, may not be a perfect choice for teachers to set up the robots as they may not possess the required level of programming knowledge. uReply Robot is a user-friendly application which allows teachers to set up various types of robots with minimal training. As simple as using a mobile app, teachers will be able to pre-load content like lecture slides, videos, questions, etc., onto the robots for 'lecturing', leaving teachers more time to facilitate learning activities and to interact with students during lessons.



科研精英聚首峰會

THE Summit on Research Excellence

校長段崇智教授（右一）於2月20日在澳洲悉尼舉行的「泰晤士高等教育亞太卓越研究峰會」中講論退化疾病及再生醫學的前途與挑戰。是次峰會以「科研造福社會」為主題，討論和肯定大學研究對亞太區社會的建樹。十七個國家逾二百名高等教育界、政府和業界代表出席。

Vice-Chancellor and President Prof. Rocky S. Tuan (1st right) talked about degenerative diseases and the promises and challenges of regenerative medicine during the 'Times Higher Education (THE) Research Excellence Summit: Asia Pacific' in Sydney on 20 February. The Summit with a theme 'Research for the Public Good' debated and reinforced the positive and long-term impact of university research on society in the Asia-Pacific region. Over 200 representatives from the higher education, government and industry sectors of 17 countries attended the Summit.



中大學生獲委任可持續發展委員會成員 CUHK Student Appointed to the Council for Sustainable Development

地理與資源管理學系鍾芯豫同學獲政府委任成為「可持續發展委員會」成員，由本年3月起，任期兩年，就推動可持續發展的優先範疇及如何融合環境、社會及經濟因素的策略，向政府提供意見，並致力鼓勵社區促進大眾對可持續發展原則的認識和了解。鍾芯豫是推廣低碳本地遊的本地旅遊資訊網頁V'air的聯合創辦人。



Natalie Chung, Geography and Resource Management student, is appointed to the Council for Sustainable Development for a two-year term starting from 1 March. As a member of the Council, she will advise the Government on priority areas for promoting sustainable development that will integrate environmental, social and economic perspectives, and encourage community participation and promote public awareness and understanding of the principles of sustainable development. Natalie is a co-founder of V'air, an online platform promoting low-carbon local travel.



欖球賽封王 Victory for Rugby Teams

中大男子欖球隊在大專盃七人欖球賽2019中奪冠，女子隊則奪得季軍。

The CUHK Men's Rugby Team has won the championship in the USFHK Rugby Sevens Competition 2019 while the Women's Team was the second runner-up.

中大(深圳)首屆畢業生就業報告

Employment Report on First Cohort of CUHK (SZ) Graduates Released

香港中文大學(深圳)於1月25日發布2018年首屆本科畢業生就業質量報告。本科畢業生共二百六十八人，均來自經管學院，就業率達98.51%，於內地高等院校中名列前茅，其中升學比例為65.67%。就業的畢業生逾七成在粵港澳大灣區工作，大多在大型跨國企業和獨角獸企業任職。

CUHK (SZ) released the employment report of its first cohort of bachelor's degree graduates on 25 January. The employment rate of the 268 graduates, all from the School of Economics and Management, reaches 98.51%, ranking top among mainland universities. Among them 65.67% enrolled for further study. Over 70% of employed graduates work in Greater Bay Area, mostly in large multinational corporations and unicorn companies.

宣布事項 / ANNOUNCEMENTS



校董會人事任命

Council Appointment



李國忠先生獲聯合書院校董會推選出任大學校董，任期三年，由2019年3月16日起生效。

Mr. Simon K.C. Lee has been elected by the Board of Trustees of United College as a Member of the Council for a period of three years with effect from 16 March 2019.

公積金計劃投資回報成績

Investment Returns of Staff Superannuation Scheme

基金 Fund	12.2018		1.1.2018 – 31.12.2018	
	未經審核數據 Unaudited	指標回報 Benchmark Return	未經審核數據 Unaudited	指標回報 Benchmark Return
增長 Growth	-5.32%	-4.80%	-9.15%	-9.13%
平衡 Balanced	-4.36%	-3.32%	-9.41%	-7.04%
穩定 Stable	-0.67%	0.03%	-5.58%	-3.39%
香港股票 HK Equity	-3.65%	-2.94%	-13.18%	-12.74%
香港指數 HK Index-linked	-2.44%	-2.48%	-10.47%	-10.54%
A50中國指數 A50 China Tracker	-4.64%	-4.25%	-24.54%	-23.11%
港元銀行存款 HKD Bank Deposit	0.13%	0.09%	1.54%	0.64%
美元銀行存款 USD Bank Deposit*	0.30%	0.15%	2.24%	1.14%
澳元銀行存款 AUD Bank Deposit*	-3.36%	-3.48%	-7.78%	-9.13%
歐元銀行存款 EUR Bank Deposit*	1.00%	1.01%	-4.99%	-4.66%
人民幣銀行存款 RMB Bank Deposit*	1.10%	1.32%	-2.75%	-3.48%

強積金數據請參閱：

www.cuhk.edu.hk/fno/chi/public/payroll_benefits/mpf.html

For MPF Scheme performance, please refer to:

www.cuhk.edu.hk/fno/eng/public/payroll_benefits/mpf.html

* 實際與指標回報已包括有關期間內之匯率變動

Both actual and benchmark returns include foreign currency exchange difference for the month

2019暑期課程招生

Application for Summer Programmes 2019

中大的暑期課程現正接受網上報名。「國際暑期課程」將於6月23日至8月24日舉行，讓中大本科生、海外及本地其他大學本科生(包括在外國留學的香港學生)在中大的多元文化環境中一起學習，藉此推動學術及文化交流，擴闊學生的國際視野。「高中生暑期課程」將於7月11至26日舉行，旨在讓將於2020年升讀大學的本地及海外高中生於暑假期間修讀兩門由中大教員主講的短期課程，探索不同學科領域。課程詳情可瀏覽 www.summer.cuhk.edu.hk。查詢請聯絡學術交流處(電話：3943 1826/3943 1827 或電郵：summer@cuhk.edu.hk)。

CUHK Summer Programmes are now open for online applications. The International Summer School, to be held from 23 June to 24 August, gathers CUHK undergraduate students, international students and Hong Kong residents studying at local and overseas universities to enjoy a fun, exciting and rewarding academic and cultural experience during the summer holidays. The Summer Institute, taking place from 11 to 26 July, will provide an opportunity for local and international secondary school students applying to universities in 2020 to explore different subject areas through two short courses taught by CUHK faculty members. For more information, please visit www.summer.cuhk.edu.hk. For enquiries, please contact the Office of Academic Links at 3943 1826/3943 1827 or at summer@cuhk.edu.hk.

「午間心靈綠洲」音樂會

Middy Oasis Lunchtime Concerts

1:30 pm – 1:55 pm	崇基學院禮拜堂	Chung Chi College Chapel
11.3.2019	長笛合奏音樂會 · 張曦悠 · 何彥衡 · 廖穎淇 · 曾綽盈 · 汪嘉詠	Flute Ensemble Concert · Yaudia Cheung · Jabril Ho · Liu Wing Ki · Tsang Cheuk Ying · Wong Ka Wing
18.3.2019	聲樂及室樂音樂會： Metamorphosis · 郭盈盈(女高音) · 顏嘉俊(小提琴) · 黃歷琛(鋼琴)	Voice & Chamber Concert: Metamorphosis · Zoé Bertrand (Soprano) · Gary Ngan (Violin) · Alexander Wong (Piano)



數碼時代的新聞工作者 Eleven Pointers for the 21st Century Journalist



美國總統**特朗普**經常和傳媒尋釁，「假新聞」、「後真相」等詞因而不脛而走。但其實新聞業及大眾傳媒的彌天巨變已在不知不覺中開始，而且影響深遠。

數碼科技大大改變了過往的新聞傳媒作業流程、傳播平台和經營模式，對傳統新聞業起了顛覆作用。新聞與傳播學院**蘇鑰機**教授便留意到新時代下數碼新聞學的十一個新趨勢。

首先，單一媒體傳播平台的時代已經一去不復返，多方平台變成常態。其次，大部分媒體都必奉「流動優先」為圭臬。第三，「內容決勝」會讓路給「受眾/平台決勝」。第四，在線傳播與非在線傳播界線會變得模糊。這些在新聞業的生態中都屬範式轉移的巨變。

在這個新的傳媒生態中從業員該如何自處？蘇教授見到的第五個趨勢是記者需具備多種才能。第六是舊有分工模式瓦解，不同工種崗位之間需要更多更大協作。第七，新聞變成「即時新聞」，對記者來說每分每刻都是「死線」。第八，如果記者能以不同形式（如趣聞、大數據、虛擬實境）作出報道，則競爭力肯定大大增加。

那麼傳媒老闆又如何？第九，由於數碼媒體不存在國界問題，所以傳媒老闆都必想方設法開拓國際市場。第十，行內行外會出現頻繁的合併收購風潮。最後，新的經營模式會注重如何向網民收費及訂戶與廣告的收入比重。

新聞工作者將無可避免要適應新的模式、平台和做法，以迎接新世紀的挑戰。蘇教授相信要在刮科技大風的新傳媒秩序中站穩陣腳，從業員必須培養出只此一家的創意。

Donald Trump's diatribes with the media have made terms such as *fake news* and *post-truth* household. But the changes in journalism and the mass media have started much earlier and are more far-reaching.

Digital technology is subversive to traditional journalism as it renders past work routines, distribution platforms and business models out-of-date. Prof. **Clement So** of the School of Journalism and Communication can identify 11 media trends that have evolved or are evolving.

First, the era of single media distribution platform has ended and multiple platforms have become the norm. Second, 'mobile first' is the slogan for almost all media operators. Third, the notion of 'Content is King' is beginning to make way for 'Audience/platform is King'. Fourth, online and offline convergence is the way to go. These are paradigm shifts in the journalistic ecology.

How should journalists cope in this new ecology then? Fifth, journalists of the 21st century have to be equipped with multiple skills. Sixth, there is a change of work routine that reshuffles the traditional division of labour and emphasizes cooperation and synergy among different departments. Seventh, 'instant news' makes every minute a deadline for the journalist. Eighth, the multiple ways of storytelling such as using 'factoid' (a trivial news item or a false statement presented as a fact), big data, Virtual Reality techniques, etc., can give one an edge in competition.

How would all these affect the media owners? Ninth, as digital media recognize no national boundaries, the media owners would try to develop international markets for their businesses. Tenth, partnerships within the profession and across different businesses will make it a busy time for mergers and acquisitions. Lastly, the change of business model is imperative especially regarding how to charge online and the profit ratio of subscription vs advertising.

Practising or aspiring journalists have to adopt the new formats, platforms and practices while adapting to the 'brave new world' environment. After the darkness there will be a new dawn. For journalists to succeed in this technologically driven world, they have to strive for creativity and uniqueness. The former gives them the edge while the latter enables them not to be easily copied and outdone by others.

T.C.



牽絆人間 The Silken Tie



Source: A Priori Image

長命百歲是否必然幸福？**黃肇邦**執導的紀錄片《伴生》展現患病長者與照顧者之間的牽絆。早前大學通識教育部與東華三院合辦《伴生》放映會暨座談會，座無虛席，導演現身解答選材和拍攝手法等問題，亦有不少觀眾反映電影道出其照顧家人的掙扎。

「伴生」二字令我想起「共生」，即兩個生命體互惠共存，例如魚菜共生，魚的排泄物會化為菜的養分，而菜葉的光合作用又能淨化水質，改善魚的生活環境。導演解釋片名的緣由，「伴生有次序之分，由主幹植物衍生的周邊植物，會扶持主幹生存，好比子女通過父母的繁衍來到世界，長大後照顧雙親。」

2014年，黃肇邦在東華三院做義工半年，認識了紀錄片內的三個家庭，在徵得他們同意後，用兩年拍攝他們進出老人院、醫院，甚至是靈堂的經歷。他說：「其實我不拍攝的時間比較多，放下攝錄機後，我是一名普通義工，更會與他們討論治療與照顧的對策。」

這份關懷贏得拍攝對象的加倍信任。他們在鏡頭前神態自然，也不諱言道出內心感受：長子Paul不捨暮年的父親，但不忍他受病痛折磨，寧願他早日解脫；陳小姐獨力照顧兩老幾近崩潰，卻為送他們到老人院而愧疚不孝；晚上工作的兒子於日間陪患病母親往返醫院覆診，疲憊不堪。

《伴生》拍得一點也不煽情，它把兩代人相濡以沫和充滿張力的關係如實表達。片尾是陳小姐趁假日帶兩老住酒店、到尖沙咀互相依偎看海。兩老已入住老人院，牽絆仍在，但她學會了放手，珍惜眼前的海闊天空。

Is longevity truly a blessing? *Snuggle*, a documentary directed by **Wong Siu-pong**, deals with the relationship between care-givers and their ageing parents with chronic illnesses. The screening-cum-talk of *Snuggle* co-organized by CUHK's Office of University General Education and the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals attracted a full house. Besides questions on the director's choice of theme and shooting style, many members of the audience shared their struggles in caring for their family members.

I associate 'snuggling' with *sympiosis*, a mutually dependent and beneficial relationship between two organisms such as in aquaponics. The waste produced by farmed fish supplies the nutrients for plants grown hydroponically, which in turn purify the water via photosynthesis. The director explained the film title: 'Snuggling is hierarchical: the symbionts bred by their host will in turn support the host's survival. It's like the adult children taking the turn to care for their parents who brought them to the world.'

In 2014, Wong Siu-pong volunteered for half a year in the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals and met three families. Having obtained their consent, he spent two years recording their journeys accompanying their ageing parents to the elderly care homes, hospitals or even funeral halls. 'Actually I spent more time not shooting. Off camera, I was just an ordinary volunteer and would join them in discussing the treatments and care plans.'

His genuineness has deepened the families' trust on him. They acted natural in front of the camera and made no bones about their feelings: The eldest son Paul hopes that his father could soon end his suffering, though he would badly miss him; Miss Chan is on the verge of a breakdown caring for her two parents by herself, but the thought of sending them to the elderly home makes her guilty; the son who works night shifts wears himself out by taking his mother to the hospital in daytime for cancer care.

Snuggle has very little sentimentality in it. It presents starkly the mutual support and tensions between the two generations. At the end of the film, Miss Chan brings her parents to a local hotel for vacation and is snuggling with them before the scenic Victoria Harbour. Her parents have been admitted to the elderly home, but the tie is still there. She has, however, learnt to be at ease and live for the moment to take in the sky and the sea.

J. Lau

范亭亭教授

Prof. Fan Tingting

2018年度博文教學獎得主暢談教學之樂、最感激的良師益友，以及將人生變得饒有趣味的心得。

The winner of the University Education Award 2018 talked to *CUHK Newsletter* about the joy of teaching, her role models, and how she transformed her life from a bore to a blast.



市場學系 Department of Marketing

畢業四年便獲得中大最高教學榮譽之一博文教學獎，有何感受？

獲獎無論對我還是一眾研究型年輕教授而言都是極大鼓舞。我們難免會懷疑自己能否做到教學與研究兩不誤。我的親身體會是，教書充滿樂趣，值得為之付出。

學生對你的教學評分極高，秘訣何在？

當個有趣的人。每逢看電影、閱讀或逛街，我都時刻留意有哪些奇聞趣事，可以從市場學角度跟學生分享。當我在課堂提出從不會出現在教科書的話題，例如毒販如何將可卡因從哥倫比亞運往美國，或是亞馬遜總裁的離婚將怎樣影響公司，學生便格外精神，討論得興高采烈。

你認為學生最欣賞你甚麼？

對他們真心誠意的尊重。我總是鼓勵他們暢所欲言，也很重視他們的意見。上我的課發言沒有對錯之分。只要邏輯合理，任何回答都是好回答。

數碼營銷是你的研究專長。數碼世界瞬息萬變，如何確保所授知識與時並進？

我教的理論也許維持不變，但用以闡釋的例子卻一直緊貼時事。我愛讀《華爾街日報》、《時代》雜誌、《經濟學人》，許多在課堂分析的案例都取材自這些報刊對時政熱話和新興趨勢的深入報道。

迄今為止覺得自己哪項研究最有趣？

曾經研究眾籌平台，得出的結論相當出人意料：如果眾籌活動早期的集資多為小額款項，例如一美元，會更容易吸納後續投資。倘若初期集資主要由較大款額構成，例如一百美元，潛在投資人往往會猜想，這些資金是來自眾籌發起人的親戚朋友，因而降低出資意欲。我稱之為「以小博大效應」，有利於創業者設計有效的籌款策略。

你有哪位教學上的楷模嗎？

我十分敬仰我的博士導師兼摯友Peter N. Golder教授。我還在北京大學唸本科就認識他，至今十二年。他見證了我在紐約市政廳的婚禮，帶着我走到博士畢業典禮的台前，又攜家人拜訪我遠在福建的老家。他以身作則的教我要做個有愛心、擅啟發的老師，要在逆境中保持樂觀，以及要常懷感恩之心。

以前的你是哪一類學生？

中學的我是個典型書呆子，一心只想考第一。後來在北大認識了我最要好的朋友董韞韜，她現在已是康涅狄格大學的教授。是她啟迪了我：只要靈魂有趣，儘管成績不是最好，生活同樣精彩。要是早些明白這道理該多好啊！

你看起來總是神清氣爽，有甚麼保持身心舒泰的竅門？

還是那句，當個有趣的人。我自知既不聰明，也不漂亮，但我可以很有趣。世上有太多樂事等待發掘，我必須保持健康開朗，才能帶上家人朋友同享這趟旅程。

How do you feel about winning the University Education Award—one of the highest accolades for teaching excellence in CUHK—only four years after graduation?

The award is a great encouragement not just to me but to all the research-oriented young academics who might not believe they could balance teaching and research well. It proves that teaching can be fun and enjoyable and is worth the effort.

You received exceptionally high ratings from your students. What's your secret?

Being an interesting person. Whenever I watch a movie, read a book or go shopping, I am constantly on the lookout for interesting things to share with my students from the standpoint of marketing. They would be excited and respond more actively if I bring forth topics not found in any marketing textbook, such as how drug dealers ship cocaine from

Columbia to the US and how the divorce of Amazon's CEO might affect the company.

What do you think your students appreciate the most about you?

My genuine respect for them. I always ask for their thoughts and put a high premium on their opinions. In my class there is no right or wrong answer. Any answer is deemed good as long as the underlying logic is sound.

Digital marketing is one of your strong suits. With the digital world changing rapidly, how do you ensure the relevancy of what you teach?

The theories I teach may remain the same, but the examples I give are in sync with what is happening out there. I am an avid reader of *The Wall Street Journal*, *Time* and *The Economist*. Many of the cases studied in my class are based on their in-depth reports on current events and emerging trends.

Which research you've done so far has taken you by surprise?

My research into crowdfunding platforms has a counter-intuitive finding: a potential funder is more likely to contribute to a crowdfunding campaign when the majority of early contributions are relatively small amounts, e.g., US\$1. If the majority of early funders contribute larger amounts, e.g., US\$100, potential funders are likely to infer that they came from family and friends and so are less likely to chip in. I called it 'The Small-Predicts-Large Effect'. Entrepreneurs can do well to remember this when devising fundraising strategies.

As far as teaching is concerned, who is your role model?

I look up to my PhD adviser and very good friend Prof. Peter N. Golder. I've known him for 12 years since I was studying at Peking University. He witnessed my wedding at the New York City Hall, walked me to the PhD graduation ceremony, and visited my small hometown in Fujian Province with his family. It is he who showed me how to be a caring and inspiring teacher, how to stay positive during tough times, and how to be grateful for everything.

What kind of a student were you?

I was a typical nerd in high school. Coming first in exams was all I ever wanted. My best friend Dong Yuntao, whom I met at Peking University and who is now a professor at the University of Connecticut, inspired me to see that life can still be wonderful without top scores, if we have an interesting soul. I wish I had learned that much earlier.

You always look joyful and energetic. Any tips for staying physically and mentally fit?

Again, be an interesting person. I am neither smart nor pretty, but I can be interesting. There is so much fun to be had in the world. I must stay happy and healthy to bring along my friends and family on this wonderful trip. 🍷

Christine N.



Photo by ISO Staff