

## **Personal Curriculum Vitae for Media and Public**

### **Introduction:**

Dr Sarah Sau Ha Luk have been working at the Chinese University of Hong Kong as a professional consultant at the Faculty of Education since 2011 and also served as Registered Educational Psychologist in Hong Kong and Chartered Psychologist in British Psychological Society. For years, the focus of the works of Dr. Luk is on (1) helping and supporting children with literacy acquisition and dyslexic and (2) promoting mental health among teachers, university students and the general public. Equipped with various kinds of working experiences in the field of educational psychologist, Dr. Luk works as teacher and educational psychologist at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the roles she conceives of herself are as follow:

1. As a Trainer: Enhancing Professionalism
2. As a Scientific-Practitioner: Maintaining Evidence-Based Practice
3. As a Public Educator: Making Social Impact and Public Awareness
4. As a Mental Health Promoter: Advocating Preventive Measure of Psychological Health

### **As a Trainer: Enhancing Professionalism**

Trained as an educational psychologist, Dr. Luk has been working as a professional consultant in the Department of Educational Psychology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong since 2011. By offering services of supervising and training at the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Medicine, she commits herself to passing on her expertise to the next generation of professionals. Dr. Luk is responsible for the training of future primary and secondary school teachers, school counsellors, trainee educational psychologists and trainee speech therapists. Her main areas of expertise are special educational needs and dyslexia, pedagogy of dyslexia theory, assessment methods, support methods and psychological counselling for special needs families. Over the decades, She has trained approximately 3,000 pre-service primary and secondary school teachers, over 200 practicing school counsellors, 30 pre-service educational psychologists and about 100 speech therapists trainees. In the past decade, She has received **Faculty Exemplary Teaching Award (2013, 2016 & 2021) at Faculty of Education** and **Vice-Chancellor's Exemplary Teaching Award (2013 & 2021) at university level**, Chinese University of Hong Kong. All three exemplary teaching awards were granted in recognition of her contribution to the education and training of future professionals, particularly in the areas of special needs and dyslexia. The three teaching awards represent both a very strong recognition of her service in the training of future education professionals and high acclaim won among faculty members. As an educational psychologist, it is Dr. Luk's lifelong ambition to nurture the next generation through theory and practice and to uphold professional standards and ethics.

### **As a Scientific-Practitioner: Maintaining Evidence-Based Practice**

Dr Luk believes in the mutual reinforcement of research and practice in the field of educational psychology and is committed to finding out how the methodologies of Western researches have a bearing on Chinese dyslexia since those days of her postgraduate study in the Department of Educational Psychology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and this could be confirmed by the title of her doctoral thesis “**Intervention for Children with Dyslexia in Chinese: A Comparison of Two Instructional Approaches**” which was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Award in the year of 2010 and 2011. For the past decade, the foci of her research are on three inter-related areas: (1) the first focus is on Literacy and Dyslexia: the phonological, orthography and morphological properties of Chinese language and characters, including linguistic demands, literacy acquisition and the language system of Chinese and all the ground work study of helping dyslexic students understand Chinese through understanding language properties. (2) the second focus is on brain imaging and neurological functioning of Chinese dyslexic students. It’s the unique characteristics of Chinese dyslexic students in processing language and text information. (3) The third focus is on the intervention methods of supporting students with dyslexia. Aiming at making the interface between research and practice better, her colleague (Professor Cheng Pui Wan) and Dr. Luk were awarded research grants enabling them to conduct a research project named “Preventing Literacy Difficulties through Early Intervention in First and Second Grades”. She was the co-investigator of the research. They were subsequently awarded a grant from The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust to turn the research into a teacher training program named “Read & Write”. From 2008 to 2015, Dr. Luk was one of the educational psychologist trainers of this program. Dr. Luk and several other psychologists trained 5000 primary and kindergarten teachers in a decade. Dr Luk feels very privileged to have been a key member of a large “Read & Write” project of dyslexia support and research. The project became the pioneer on dyslexia intervention in Hong Kong.

### **As a Public Educator: Maintaining Social Impact and Public Awareness**

Dr Luk is fully convinced of the importance of public education in the work of educational psychologist and that is the reason why she has been advocating for many years the rights and protection of people with special needs. She has five approaches to public education for different members of the community. Firstly, she trained the officers from Education Bureau and Special Needs Education Coordinators (SENCO) and principals in schools to give talks/training on dyslexia and career counselling for SEN students). Secondly, she conducted parent education seminars with other psychologists and professors. 32 parent seminars were held under the "Read & Write" project from 2011 to 2015, with a total of 4,500 parents receiving training on dyslexia and language learning. Thirdly, she introduced special learning needs to teachers and parents of Hong Kong's leading non-profit educational institutions (the

Gifted Academy and the Hong Kong Children's Choir). Fourthly, to maintain a good relationship with the media and be interviewed by them on the current situation of SEN. Fifthly, to advocate the rights of kindergarten teachers and to conduct research to gain government attention and resources.

**As a Mental Health Promoter: Maintaining Preventive Measure of Psychological Health**

Mental health promotion is a matter of concern to Dr Luk. She promotes mental health to university staff, university students and serving teachers in primary and secondary schools. She has contributed to the promotion of mental health in various university systems as follows: Firstly, she conducted counselling training programs for professional counsellors and psychologists in universities. Secondly, as the Dean of General Education at Lee Woo Sing College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, she is committed to promoting mental health to university students and professors. Dr Luk worked with CLEAR (The Centre for Learning Enhancement And Research) to obtain funding to set up an online platform for helping university professors to counsel their students in handling emotions and extending psychological counselling to university staffs. Thirdly, she served as Co-Investigator on the research “Teachers’ attitudes toward seeking professional psychological help and their relation to referring students for mental health support”. Lastly, for promoting mental health to public, she was responsible for coordinating the provision of counselling and psychological services to the community through professional educational psychology and counselling services.