



My Thesis Research Journey

Tangi Pui Chi Yip, Ph.D.



Image by Alexandar Pasaric from www.pexels.com

Hello. My name is Tangi, and I recently graduated from the department. My research interest covers different areas – housing, gender, and family.

In my thesis, I paid attention to how young people struggled and experienced housing transition by using Hong Kong as a case study. My interest in housing, in fact, stemmed from the fact that soaring property prices and worsening housing affordability have increasingly made home ownership out of reach in

many global cities. Young people, in particular, are a vulnerable group because of their relatively limited financial capacity (as compared to the older generations). A growing body of research has suggested that a delay or failure to achieve home ownership on time is problematic since it may result in serious ramifications entrenched in different social aspects, including a postponement in marriage and child-bearing decisions. This discussion is particularly relevant in the Chinese context as property prices in many Chinese cities have witnessed an upsurging in the recent decade, and gender remains to be a salient social structure in regulating expectations and practices in acquiring a marital home in Chinese societies. It would be interesting to explore how housing is entangled with gender, marriage, family resources, and young people's aspirations and strategies in response to growing barriers to home ownership. My research is also intended to enrich the existing discussion on housing and home ownership that has long been dominated by economic-centered perspectives.

My journey to confirming the research topic was less straightforward than I had previously thought. In fact, my original research topic was about marriage transition. During the initial progress of data collection, I was fortunate to have many respondents sharing with me their process, struggles, and barriers to buying flats and living independently upon getting married. Their housing stories and experience indeed helped me navigate the research path and refine my research topic. If you're less certain about your research topics or in the process of refining your research areas, you are suggested to go into the field and collect some data first, which would definitely help you think through the process! 😊

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✓ Call for Papers

- Asian Graduate Student Fellowship, National University of Singapore. **Deadline for Applications: Dec. 14, 2022** [[See the ad](#)]
- Chinese Diasporas in the COVID-19 Pandemic, Brill, Chinese Overseas Book Series. **Deadline for Applications: Dec. 30, 2022** [[See the ad](#)]

✓ Job Opportunities

- Sociology Research Professor, Social Sciences Department, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Peru, **Deadline for Applications: Mar. 5, 2023** [[See the ad](#)]

The Newsletter is an initiative of the graduate students of the Department of Sociology at CUHK and is published monthly.
To contact us: cuhknewsletter@gmail.com