

## **UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS SCHEME (2017-18)**

- **HKU Foundation Postgraduate Fellowships**
- **Jessie Ho Memorial Postgraduate Fellowships**
- **Lee Shau Kee Postgraduate Fellowships**
- **Philip K H Wong Foundation Postgraduate Fellowships**

University Postgraduate Fellowships are awarded to competitively selected new full-time PhD students who have excellent academic records. To raise the University's research profile and increase its ranking among the top universities in the world, it is important for the University to expand the size of its research postgraduate population. This Postgraduate Fellowships scheme was first introduced in 2007 and serves the purpose of attracting high-calibre applicants from around the world for admission to our various PhD programmes. To date, 439 outstanding students have been awarded the fellowships.

The University Postgraduate Fellowships Scheme is generously supported by **The University of Hong Kong Foundation for Educational Development and Research ("HKU Foundation")**, the **Jessie & George Ho Charitable Foundation**, **Dr Lee Shau Kee**, and the **Philip K H Wong Foundation**. The list of fellowship recipients are as follows:

### **HKU Foundation Postgraduate Fellowships**

#### **Faculty of Business and Economics**

**Miss YUAN Zhaoneng**

*Research Field: Economics*

#### **Faculty of Education**

**Miss LIU Wan Yi Eva**

*Research Field: Chinese Education for Linguistically Diverse Pupils in Hong Kong*

**Miss LIU Yingxin**

*Research Field: Higher Education, Researchers' Research Agenda-Setting*

**Mr SHI Hejia**

*Research Field: Education Policy, Rural Education, Teacher Professional Development, Teacher Education*

**Miss XIE Weiyi**

*Research Field: Family Studies, Childhood Development and Education*

**Miss YE Wei**

*Research Field: Internationalization of Higher Education, International and Comparative Education*

#### **Faculty of Engineering**

**Mr ZHUANG Yansheng** (*Department of Civil Engineering*)

*Research Field: Geotechnical Engineering*

**Mr CAI Huaxiang** (*Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering*)

*Research Field: Power System*

**Mr MA Xin** (*Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering*)

*Research Field: Neuroscience*

**Mr SONG Shiguang** (*Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering*)

*Research Field: Electricity Markets, Smart Grid Tech and Electric Vehicles*

**Mr LI Wenye** (*Department of Mechanical Engineering*)

*Research Field: Air Pollution Physics and Chemistry*

**Mr PAN Wending** (*Department of Mechanical Engineering*)  
*Research Field: Microfluidic Fuel Cells*

### **Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine**

**Miss ZHANG Yu** (*Department of Clinical Oncology*)  
*Research Field: Cancer Genetics*

**Miss WANG Lingling** (*Department of Medicine*)  
*Research Field: Gastroenterology*

### **Faculty of Science**

**Mr FONG Pak Ming** (*Department of Chemistry*)  
*Research Field: Chemical Biology*

**Mr MAN Jason Yin Hei** (*Department of Chemistry*)  
*Research Field: Supramolecular and Bioinorganic Chemistry*

**Mr MU Yijiang** (*Department of Chemistry*)  
*Research Field: Materials Chemistry*

**Mr ZHENG Bin** (*Department of Chemistry*)  
*Research Field: Transition Metal Catalysis*

**Mr YUAN Wangjun** (*Department of Mathematics*)  
*Research Field: Probability Theory and Information Theory*

**Mr YANG Fengwei** (*Department of Physics*)  
*Research Field: Cosmology, Black Hole Physics, Dark Matter, High Energy Processes*

### **Faculty of Social Sciences**

**Miss GUO Danyuan** (*Department of Social Work and Social Administration*)  
*Research Field: Gender and Sexuality*

**Miss SONG Xinmiao** (*Department of Sociology*)  
*Research Field: Rural Sociology*

### **Jessie Ho Memorial Postgraduate Fellowships**

#### **Faculty of Architecture**

**Miss ZHANG Mengzhu** (*Department of Urban Planning and Design*)  
*Research Field: Urban Planning*

#### **Faculty of Business and Economics**

**Miss WU Qiong**  
*Research Field: Accounting*

#### **Faculty of Education**

**Mr LUI Chi To**  
*Research Field: Mathematics Education*

#### **Faculty of Engineering**

**Mr WU Tien Hsuan** (*Department of Computer Science*)  
*Research Field: Database and Data Mining*

**Mr WEN Dingzhu** (*Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering*)  
*Research Field: Communications and Networking Systems*

**Miss GAO Yue** (*Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering*)  
*Research Field: Resilience Engineering*

### **Faculty of Law**

**Mr XUE Renwei** (*Department of Law*)  
*Research Field: Commercial, Corporate and Financial Law*

### **Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine**

**Miss CHUA Hui Ying** (*School of Public Health*)  
*Research Field: Assessing Transmission Potential and Risk of Dengue Virus in Hong Kong*  
**Mr LIAO Yunshi** (*School of Public Health*)  
*Research Field: Virus Evolution and Ecology*

### **Faculty of Science**

**Mr FUNG Ho Ching** (*Department of Chemistry*)  
*Research Field: Inorganic/ Organometallic /Material Chemistry*  
**Miss LI Yanran** (*School of Biological Sciences*)  
*Research Field: Molecular Microbiology and Biochemistry*

### **Faculty of Social Sciences**

**Miss LENG Lingli** (*Department of Social Work and Social Administration*)  
*Research Field: Mental Health, Psychopathology*

### **Lee Shau Kee Postgraduate Fellowships**

#### **Faculty of Architecture**

**Ms LI Yadi** (*Department of Real Estate and Construction*)  
*Research Field: Construction Safety Management*  
**Miss LU Siru** (*Department of Real Estate and Construction*)  
*Research Field: Real Estate Finance and Investment*

#### **Faculty of Arts**

**Miss WU Shuang** (*School of Humanities (History)*)  
*Research Field: Women's History*

#### **Faculty of Engineering**

**Miss DU Jia** (*Department of Civil Engineering*)  
*Research Field: Construction Engineering and Management*  
**Mr YE Yun** (*Department of Civil Engineering*)  
*Research Field: Traffic and Transportation Engineering*  
**Mr ZHANG Qiankun** (*Department of Computer Science*)  
*Research Field: Theoretical Computer Science; Algorithm Design and Analysis*

### **Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine**

**Mr DU, Richard** (*Department of Diagnostic Radiology*)  
*Research Field: Machine Learning, Radiomics, Radiology, Image Processing, Diagnostic and Prognostic Methods for Cancer and Cardiovascular Disease*

**Mr KONG Mingpeng** (*School of Biomedical Sciences*)  
*Research Field: Developmental Genomic and Skeleton Disorder*  
**Miss LIN Xiaochen** (*School of Biomedical Sciences*)  
*Research Field: Developmental Biology*

### **Faculty of Science**

**Mr WONG Ka Ho** (*Department of Chemistry*)  
*Research Field: Inorganic/ Organometallic /Material Chemistry*  
**Miss HUANG Qi** (*School of Biological Sciences*)  
*Research Field: Marine Biodiversity and Ecology; Environmental Bioremediation*

### **Faculty of Social Sciences**

**Miss GAO Hang** (*Department of Sociology*)  
*Research Field: Labour Sociology*

### **Philip K H Wong Foundation Postgraduate Fellowships**

#### **Faculty of Dentistry**

**Dr ALI, Islam Abdelhalim Abdelaziz**  
*Research Field: Root Canal Disinfection Using Nanoparticles*

#### **Faculty of Education**

**Miss WANG Ruohan**  
*Research Field: English-medium instruction, Higher Education, Social Stratification and Mobility*

#### **Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine**

**Miss RONG Li** (*School of Biomedical Sciences*)  
*Research Field: Molecular Biology*

#### **Faculty of Social Sciences**

**Miss LEE Lok Chun Janet** (*Department of Social Work and Social Administration*)  
*Research Field: Ageing and Health*

## **AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE STUDENT (2015-16)**

Award for Outstanding Research Postgraduate Student was established by the Graduate School in 2002 to give due recognition to research postgraduate students who have submitted a thesis of exceptional quality and demonstrated outstanding performance in other academic aspects. Each year, not more than 10 students will receive this award among hundreds of students who have submitted their thesis during the specific academic year.

**Dr BAO Xiucong** (*PhD, Department of Chemistry*)

**Dr CARRAI, Maria Adele** (*PhD, Department of Law*)

**Dr LAM Sze Yuen** (*PhD, Department of Medicine*)

**Dr LI Changxian** (*PhD, Department of Surgery*)

**Dr LIANG Zhiyuan** (*PhD, Department of Mechanical Engineering*)

**Mrs NARAYAN, Niketa Gupte** (*MPhil, School of English*)

**Dr WANG Shuai** (*PhD, Faculty of Dentistry*)

**Mr WONG Cheong Wai Martin** (*MPhil, School of Biological Sciences*)

**Dr YAO Liaoyuan** (*PhD, Department of Chemistry*)

**Dr ZHU Han** (*PhD, Department of Law*)

**RECIPIENTS OF THE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE STUDENT (2015-16)**

**Dr BAO Xiucong (PhD)**  
*Department of Chemistry*

Thesis Title:  
Study on the Cellular Regulation and Function of Lysine Malonylation, Glutarylation and Crotonylation

Supervisor:  
Dr X. Li, Department of Chemistry

Dr Bao's thesis addresses scientific questions in the field of protein posttranslational modifications (PTMs). She makes a major contribution to the understanding of protein PTMs and development of chemical approaches to solving biological questions.

The function and cellular regulation of protein PTMs has recently become a hot topic in the field of chemical biology as PTMs play fundamental roles in regulating normal cell physiology and disease pathogenesis. Given numerous links between protein PTMs and normal cell physiology, abnormalities in their regulation may cause genomic instability and lead to human diseases such as cancer. The studies reported in this thesis focus on three important protein PTMs, lysine malonylation, glutarylation and crotonylation. The results presented in this thesis provide critical information for understanding how these protein PTMs are associated with various human diseases and identifying therapeutic targets for the dysregulation of these novel protein marks in various human diseases.

Dr Bao has made a significant contribution to cutting edge research on several newly discovered PTMs. She has published in top international journals and has had an impressive record of awards throughout her academic career.

In addition to working on her own projects, Dr Bao was always ready to help junior students in the team, generously sharing knowledge and experience, describing best practices for recording and storing data and encouraging junior team members to complete their projects.

Dr Bao is currently pursuing a postdoctoral position with the aim of completing her study within 2-3 years, after which she will seek a professional university position.

**RECIPIENTS OF THE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE STUDENT (2015-16)**

**Dr CARRAI, Maria Adele (PhD)**

*Department of Law*

Thesis Title:

A Genealogy of Sovereignty in Modern China, 1840-Today

Supervisor:

Professor A.H.Y. Chen, Department of Law

Dr Carrai's thesis presents an intellectual history of China that is original and of great potential interest to scholars working on the history of modern China, its international relations, and its use of international law concepts. She makes a valuable contribution to knowledge about how the concept of sovereignty was imported, understood, reconstructed and consumed to serve China's national interest at different times.

Adopting the method of conceptual history and drawing on the paradigm of "reflective orientalism" and the Third World Countries' approach to international law, the objectives of the thesis are twofold: to rehabilitate Chinese agency, by approaching China as a 'breaker' and 'shaker' of the rules of international law that contributed to its universalization; and to put the history of international law in a global perspective.

The thesis makes an outstanding contribution to the study of the introduction of the political and international law concept of "sovereignty" from the Western world into China in the 19th century, and the subsequent evolution of the concept and discourse of "sovereignty" during the late Qing, Republican and Communist periods and up to the present.

Dr Carrai's work has been widely published in highly reputable international journals and she currently has a book project under review with Cambridge University Press. She has received an impressive list of major awards throughout her academic career, most recently the Marie Sldodowska-Curie fellowship, KU Leuven, Belgium (2017-2020).

**RECIPIENTS OF THE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE STUDENT (2015-16)**

**Dr LAM Sze Yuen (PhD)**  
*Department of Medicine*

Thesis Title:

In Vitro Drug Screening Identified Homoharringtonine (Omacetaxine Mepesuccinate) as an Effective Adjunct for Treatment of FLT3-ITD Acute Myeloid Leukaemia

Supervisors:

Professor A.Y.H. Leung, Department of Medicine

Dr R.K. Ng, School of Biomedical Sciences

Dr Lam's PhD project focuses on the design of a novel technological platform to guide personalized treatment for acute myeloid leukemia (AML), one of the most lethal cancers. As a PhD student he was virtually unique as he took four years off his medical curriculum to pursue basic science in the laboratory. His thesis has far reaching impact with particular reference to the identification of homoharringtonine (HHT) as an adjunct for a subtype of AML carrying FLT3-ITD mutation and the development of an in vitro platform for testing drug sensitivity of AML samples.

His research has established a valuable tool for drug testing of primary AML cells and identified HHT as a novel adjunct for the treatment of the highly aggressive FLT3-ITD AML. The work contributes substantially to precision AML therapy by providing the proof-of-principle of a new treatment modality. It also demonstrates the utility of an in vitro drug screening platform.

Much of the work in Dr Lam's thesis has already been published in leading scientific journals. He has an impressive list of scholarships and academic awards. Following completion of his PhD study, Dr Lam has returned to the medical school where he continues his medical training. After graduation in 2018, with joint MBBS/PhD degrees, he will be in an enviable position when it comes to deciding his future career path.

**RECIPIENTS OF THE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE STUDENT (2015-16)**

**Dr LI Changxian (PhD)**  
*Department of Surgery*

Thesis Title:

Mechanisms of Hepatic Ischemia Reperfusion Injury and Tumor Recurrence after Liver Transplantation

Supervisors:

Professor K. Man, Department of Surgery

Professor C.M. Lo, Department of Surgery

Dr Li is a graduate from the Department of Surgery, Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine. His PhD project deals with the molecular mechanisms of liver graft injury and tumor recurrence after liver transplantation – an important and timely topic in the field of organ transplantation. Understanding the precise mechanism regulating liver graft injury and cancer recurrence is crucial for the development of novel therapeutic strategies for liver transplantation.

Using genetic knock out mice and clinical data, Dr Li discovered the inhibition of Aldose reductase (AR), and Repressor and activator protein (Rap1), could effectively attenuate liver damage and reduce inflammatory response in hepatic ischemia reperfusion (IR) injury.

In addition to working on his own PhD project, Dr Li also actively conducted and/or assisted with several projects relating to liver cancer and liver transplantation. He has published three papers as first author, and 12 as co-author in international journals. A number of international awards and prizes recognize his ground breaking findings far beyond Hong Kong and China.

After completing his PhD studies at HKU, Dr Li was recruited as a surgeon by the First Affiliated Hospital of Nanjing Medical University (NMU), Nanjing's biggest teaching hospital. He is currently the hospital's surgeon in charge of liver transplantation research, a position that will enable him to play a major role in the university's development of transplant research. His appointment will also be important for future collaboration between HKU and NMU in his chosen field of organ transplantation.

**RECIPIENTS OF THE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE STUDENT (2015-16)**

**Dr LIANG Zhiyuan (PhD)**  
***Department of Mechanical Engineering***

Thesis Title:  
Science of Deformation Mechanisms in Twinning-Induced Plasticity Steels

Supervisors:  
Dr M. Huang, Department of Mechanical Engineering  
Professor A.H.W. Ngan, Department of Mechanical Engineering

Dr Liang's thesis is an in-depth study of the fundamental science of deformation mechanisms in twinning-induced plasticity steels -- a new generation of automotive materials. This thesis makes significant contributions to science and also offers important technology to the automotive industry.

The content and presentation of Dr Liang's thesis were praised by the examiners as outstanding at international level. His presentation skills during the oral examination were also rated outstanding.

Dr Liang stands out among his peers for his exceptional record of publications. A number of papers based on his thesis have appeared in leading journals in the field. As first author, Dr Liang published two papers in *Acta Materialia*, which is the No.1 journal in structure materials. He also published a paper in *Journal of Mechanics and Physics of Solid*, which is No.1 in Mechanics. As first author he has published five papers and three as second author.

Following completion of his PhD degree, Dr Liang worked as a Research Associate in Dr Huang Mingxin's group to further develop the plasticity theories for advanced high strength steels. Following that, he is going to join Professor George M. Pharr IV's group to develop advanced high temperature nanoindentation technique.

**RECIPIENTS OF THE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE STUDENT (2015-16)**

**Mrs NARAYAN, Niketa Gupte (MPhil)**  
*School of English*

Thesis Title:

Character and Community (-Building): Ethics and Policing in the Novels of Thackeray, Gaskell, and Collins, 1840-1880

Supervisor:

Professor J.C. Kuehn, School of English

A mature student, Mrs Narayan joined the MPhil programme with only one year of background in literary studies – her undergraduate and work experience was in marketing and business communication. Her original and persuasive thesis, (the product of only two years' work) drew praise from one reviewer as close to doctoral quality. One examiner commented that she is making a “real intervention in the field of Victorian studies”.

At the end of this year, the most prestigious journal in the field of Victorian studies, *Victorian Literature and Culture*, will publish an article derived from Mrs Narayan's thesis – a rare distinction for an MPhil student. In addition she has made presentations at a number of international conferences.

In her thesis, Mrs Narayan boldly engages with prominent thinkers in the field of Victorian studies and critiques them in thoughtful and thought-provoking ways. Her highly original readings of canonical novels suggest that rather than serving a policing function, Victorian novels might serve to further the burgeoning capitalism of the era through encouraging individual ambition. She argues that the decline of moral policing and the encouragement of capitalist ambition actually contributed to push Victorians towards a more inclusive society. Her thesis is timely in that it has contributed to current scholarly debates on both liberalism and democratization.

Mrs Narayan is currently working on a second article derived from the thesis, while actively preparing a research proposal relating to her MPhil topic for PhD applications.

**RECIPIENTS OF THE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE STUDENT (2015-16)**

**Dr WANG Shuai (PhD)**  
*Faculty of Dentistry*

Thesis Title:

Effects of *Enterococcus Faecalis* and its Lipoteichoic Acid on Osteoclastogenesis and Osteogenesis

Supervisors:

Professor C. Zhang, Faculty of Dentistry

Professor G.S.P. Cheung, Faculty of Dentistry

Dr Wang has a strong interest in scientific research, and meticulously performed the study that is the basis for her thesis. She unravelled the mechanisms of osteolytic lesions associated with *Enterococcus faecalis* and its lipoteichoic acid in persistent apical periodontitis. Her findings are instructive for further studies, and also beneficial for clinical therapy, making her thesis significant in linking the etiology of periapical periodontitis with its underlying molecular mechanisms, which could herald new breakthroughs in the future.

Periapical periodontitis is one of the most common inflammatory oral diseases that lead to bone destruction in failed endodontic treatments. *E. faecalis* is often isolated from these root canals and considered the major pathogen responsible for treatment failure. Hence, it is imperative to study the relationship between osteoimmunology, *E. faecalis* and its lipoteichoic acid. Dr Wang's thesis is the first systematic investigation in molecular level of *E. faecalis* in pathogenesis of apical periodontitis. Her thesis has a significant impact on the endodontic field by discovering the mechanisms of how *E. faecalis* modulates the differentiation of osteoclasts and osteoblasts. Her findings could pave the way for future treatment of apical periodontitis through targeting the virulence factor.

Dr Wang has already published portions of her research in four internationally renowned dental and biomedical journals, an extraordinary accomplishment at this stage in her career, reflecting the high quality of her research work.

Following completion of her thesis, Dr Wang was a Post-doctoral fellow at HKU until July this year when she took up a position as Assistant Professor in Qingdao University.

**RECIPIENTS OF THE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE STUDENT (2015-16)**

**Mr WONG Cheong Wai Martin (MPhil)**  
*School of Biological Sciences*

Thesis Title:

Nitrogen Isotopes as Tracers of Anthropogenic Nitrogen Input in Coastal Ecosystems: Two Case Studies from Asia

Supervisors:

Dr D.M. Baker, School of Biological Sciences

Professor G.A. Williams, School of Biological Sciences

Mr Wong's thesis concerns the growing problem of nutrient pollution in coastal marine ecosystems. He used advanced techniques of stable isotope analysis to provide strong evidence of the impact of anthropogenic nitrogen inputs on two studied ecosystems. These findings allow for the tailoring of mitigation management policies and strategies. Also, the data provide base lines for comparison with any future changes in these ecosystems through long-term monitoring programmes, enabling evaluation of management decisions and mitigation efforts.

The first case study is arguably the largest scale stable isotope analysis on coral samples in the Pearl River Delta region. For the second case study, Mr Wong led a research expedition to a small village in the Philippines, where he pioneered ecological surveying efforts as the benthic community composition and health had been largely overlooked. Multiple signs of reef degradation were revealed within the ecotourism-impacted area.

While working towards his MPhil degree, Mr Wong was actively involved in education and outreach. After completion of his thesis, he sought opportunities which allowed him to contribute to marine conservation efforts in developing countries. He took up an internship at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Program in Nairobi, Kenya where he assisted in the planning and coordination of a five-year campaign to reduce marine plastic pollution globally. In June 2017 he was appointed to a new job as a Marine Science Officer at a local NGO based in a small village in Southwest Madagascar. There, he designs and leads on-the-ground projects aiming to enhance the local community and environment well-being through creating alternative livelihoods and improving resource management.

**RECIPIENTS OF THE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE STUDENT (2015-16)**

**Dr YAO Liaoyuan (PhD)**  
*Department of Chemistry*

Thesis Title:

Gold-Gold Interaction Directed Self-assembly of Polynuclear Gold(I) Clusters and Ultrasmall Gold Nanoclusters: From Cluster-to-Cluster Transformation to Structure-Dependent Photophysics

Supervisor:

Professor V.W.W. Yam, Department of Chemistry

Dr Yao's thesis focuses on the design, synthesis and supramolecular assembly of highly novel classes of luminescent gold(I) clusters supported by bridging diphosphine ligands, and the exploration of the utilization of non-covalent gold-gold interactions for supramolecular assembly and as spectroscopic reporters for the elucidation of cluster assembly and cluster-to-cluster transformation mechanisms. Non-covalent gold-gold interactions are a unique type of non-covalent interactions that have bond energies comparable to that of strong hydrogen.

Dr Yao's project has also focused on the use of chiral diphosphine ligands and the employment of their chiral gold(I) precursors for the construction of a new class of chiral gold(I)-sulfido clusters with unique structures. Specifically, sequential self-assembly of chiral hexa- and decanuclear clusters and heterochiral self-sorting of achiral *meso* decanuclear clusters have been achieved, for the first time.

A versatile researcher, Dr Yao single-handedly did all the ligand design and synthesis of the gold clusters and nanoclusters, solved all the X-ray crystal structures of the gold clusters and nanoclusters, and did all the structural, spectroscopic and optical measurements.

His PhD work has resulted in four high-impact, high-profile international SCI publications, all in the highly prestigious *Journal of the American Chemical Society (JACS)*. A number of his works are described as truly seminal and of the highest quality.

He is currently a University Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Chemistry, The University of Hong Kong.

**RECIPIENTS OF THE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE STUDENT (2015-16)**

**Dr ZHU Han (PhD)**  
*Department of Law*

Thesis Title:  
Social Movements and the Law in Contemporary China: a Comparative Perspective

Supervisor:  
Professor A.H.Y. Chen, Department of Law

Dr Zhu's thesis breaks new ground in its objectives and academic value. It makes an outstanding contribution to the study of the interaction between social movements and the law in contemporary China. This field has generated much literature by social scientists and legal scholars concerned with law and social movements in the Western world, particularly the USA. But law and social movements in China have so far been under-researched.

Dr Zhu successfully applies existing theories and concepts for the study of law and social movements in the West (such as "political opportunity" theory, "resource mobilization" theory, and the concept of "rights support structure") to the study of relevant phenomena in contemporary China. Dr Zhu writes, "Although legal development in China has provided some room for legal mobilization in social movements, the party-state and its legal structure prevent the escalation of social movements in China to a higher level of mobilization and politicization in comparison with their counterparts in Taiwan and South Korea during their authoritarian periods."

By applying sociological theories, this thesis develops a new framework for explaining the relationship between civil society and law in contemporary China. Employing both quantitative and qualitative approaches, it is the first academic work to provide comprehensive statistics regarding rights lawyers and relevant strategic litigation in China.

She is currently an Assistant Research Officer, Centre for Chinese Law, Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong.

## **LI KA SHING PRIZES (2015-16)**

The Li Ka Shing Prizes are highly competitive and the recipients are the best of our elite students.

The Prizes were established in 1991. Previously they were awarded every two years to one MPhil and one PhD student in the Faculties of Humanities and Science. The number of prizes increased to two MPhil and four PhD students every year starting from 2005-2006.

### **Best MPhil thesis in the Faculties of Architecture, Arts, Business & Economics, Education, Law and Social Sciences**

**Mr PAPAVALIIOUS, Georges** (*MPhil, Centre for the Humanities and Medicine*)

### **Best MPhil thesis in the Faculties of Dentistry, Engineering, Medicine and Science**

**Miss CHENG Yik Ling Bowie** (*MPhil, Department of Pathology*)

### **Best PhD theses in the Faculties of Architecture, Arts, Business & Economics, Education, Law and Social Sciences**

**Dr WANG Jiejing** (*PhD, Department of Urban Planning and Design*)

**Dr CHEN Chih-Ting** (*PhD, School of Humanities (Music)*)

### **Best PhD theses in the Faculties of Dentistry, Engineering, Medicine and Science**

**Dr LEE Ho Tin** (*PhD, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering*)

**Dr HE Bailiang** (*PhD, Department of Medicine*)

**※Acknowledgement to HKU Campus TV for the video production※**

## **LI KA SHING PRIZES (2015-16)**

*Best MPhil thesis in the Faculties of Architecture, Arts, Business & Economics, Education, Law and Social Sciences*

**Mr PAPAVASILIOU, Georges** (MPhil)  
*Centre for the Humanities and Medicine*

Thesis Title:

Seismic Politics: China and the 2008 Wenchuan Earthquake

Supervisors:

Dr R.S. Peckham, School of Humanities (History)

Mr T. Abraham, Journalism and Media Studies Centre

Mr Papavasiliou's MPhil thesis (Seismic Politics: China and the 2008 Wenchuan Earthquake) has won glowing praise from his supervisors and external examiners. His research combines ethnographic fieldwork, cultural studies, and history to explore the construction of a disaster narrative in the PRC. The thesis sheds new light on how crisis events -- in this case the devastating 2008 Wenchuan Earthquake, which killed some 90,000 persons -- challenge political power and also provide opportunities for its expansion.

Mr Papavasiliou's argument is complex, the thesis is empirically grounded and theoretically informed. Seismic Politics illuminates recent Chinese history and furnishes critical insights into the operations of state power, the socio-cultural and political dimensions of natural disasters, and the intertwined processes of memorialization and state-sponsored heritage building.

Both examiners comment that the thesis is exceptionally well written -- of publishable quality, highly original, and important. They praise Mr Papavasiliou as a brilliant young scholar destined for an outstanding academic career.

The thesis is already making an impact on scholarship, contributing to debates on natural disasters. Mr Papavasiliou has presented his MPhil work at several conferences. The focus is on the 2008 Wenchuan Earthquake, but the thesis provides an innovative comparative and global framework for thinking about natural disasters as multi-dimensional phenomena. His ground-breaking cross-disciplinary approach opens up an important area for subsequent research.

Mr Papavasiliou is currently working as a Creative Project Manager in Shanghai. He is also continuing his Chinese language studies in preparation for graduate work at the University of Oxford.

## **LI KA SHING PRIZES (2015-16)**

### ***Best MPhil thesis in the Faculties of Dentistry, Engineering, Medicine and Science***

**Miss CHENG Yik Ling Bowie (MPhil)**

***Department of Pathology***

Thesis Title:

Functional Characterization and Therapeutic Role of Interleukin-1 Receptor-Associated Kinase 1 (IRAK1) in Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Supervisors:

Professor I.O.L. Ng, Department of Pathology

Dr S.K.Y. Ma, School of Biomedical Sciences

Miss Cheng's thesis is based on her original and innovative research on human hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Her study delineates the role of IRAK1 in promoting cancer stemness and drug resistance and has also opened a novel therapeutic strategy for the treatment of HCC.

A graduate of Imperial College London with a Master's degree with Distinction from University College London, Miss Cheng is an excellent communicator in English. She has already published one major review paper arising from her thesis, with another paper in preparation. She has also been actively involved in other research projects that generated publications in a number of international journals. She has presented her research work at the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research.

Miss Cheng's academic excellence has been recognised by a number of awards, including the Wong Ching Yee Medical Scholarship, HKU, 2015-2016. And she received a prestigious 'Best poster presentation award' in the Hong Kong Inter-University Postgraduate Symposium held in 2016. The external examiner commended the thesis for its extremely high quality, praising it as better than a standard PhD work.

Miss Cheng is currently a PhD student in the Department of Medicine, HKU, under the direct supervision of Professor Anskar Leung. Her current work is aimed at developing a novel therapeutic strategy against acute myeloid leukemia (AML).

## **LI KA SHING PRIZES (2015-16)**

*Best PhD theses in the Faculties of Architecture, Arts, Business & Economics, Education, Law and Social Sciences*

**Dr WANG Jiejing (PhD)**  
*Department of Urban Planning and Design*

Thesis Title:

The Role of the State in China's Urban System Development: Government Capacity, Institution, and Policy

Supervisor:

Professor A.G.O. Yeh, Department of Urban Planning and Design

Dr Wang's thesis is one of few studies of the development of China's urban system. He addresses the important issue of where the additional 200 million population will go in different Chinese cities as the urban population grows from the present 50% to 70% over the next 20 years. His thesis provides insight into formulating urban system development policy in China as the country copes with the projected changes in population distribution.

The external examiner said Dr Wang's thesis makes a substantial contribution to the literature and knowledge of China's urban development. His strong analytical approach breaks new ground in documenting the evolving administrative role of the Central Government in controlling and guiding the growth and expansion of the urban system. He also shows how this role has diminished to some extent with the rise of market approaches to economic growth in post-reform China.

Dr Wang has been widely published, including papers in the top four journals in urban studies. His academic standing is enhanced by a number of academic awards including a postgraduate studentship at HKU, 2012-2015.

During 2016, Dr Wang was a Post-doc Fellow in the Department of Urban Planning and Design, Faculty of Architecture, at HKU. At the beginning of 2017 he took up his current position as Assistant Professor, Department of Urban Planning and Administration, School of Public Administration and Policy, Renmin University of China.

## **LI KA SHING PRIZES (2015-16)**

*Best PhD theses in the Faculties of Architecture, Arts, Business & Economics, Education, Law and Social Sciences*

**Dr CHEN Chih-Ting** (PhD)  
*School of Humanities (Music)*

Thesis Title:

“In the mood for music:” Sonic Extraterritoriality and Musical Exchange in Hong Kong Cinema

Supervisors:

Dr G. Biancorosso, School of Humanities (Music)

Dr Y. Yang, School of Humanities (Music)

Dr Chen’s thesis blazes a new trail in the study of sound and music in Chinese-language cinema. His thesis is a major contribution to the study of film music by introducing new analytic frameworks and tools for film and music criticism.

Taking Wong Kar-wai's *In the Mood for Love* (2000) as his 'hub,' Dr Chen revisits the film history of war-torn China through the lens of music; more important still, he rescues from neglect two film genres: the 'singing' films and the 'song-and-dance' films, which he sees as central to the history of Chinese cinema during the war and in the immediate post-war period.

Dr Chen's ideas are likely to inspire new approaches to the history of Chinese-language cinema and their resonance will be felt far beyond his field. The thesis's main merit, however, lies in the sheer originality of its approach and the elegant and sophisticated manner in which Dr Chen fleshes out his close readings.

Prior to coming to HKU to study in the Music Department, Dr Chen was an English major (B.A., National Taiwan University) and a violinist (visiting student at the University of Maryland, College Park). Since graduation, Dr Chen has been very active, presenting papers both locally and internationally and publishing for both academic and non-academic audiences. He has also taken up a number of teaching positions, most recently at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, where he has revamped the Chinese Cinema courses in the Centre for China Studies.

## **LI KA SHING PRIZES (2015-16)**

### ***Best PhD theses in the Faculties of Dentistry, Engineering, Medicine and Science***

**Dr LEE Ho Tin (PhD)**

***Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering***

Thesis Title:

Design, Analysis and Application of Magnetless Doubly Salient Machines

Supervisors:

Professor K.T. Chau, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Professor C.C. Chan, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Dr Lee's thesis covers the proposal and development of innovative machines for emerging industrial applications, such as wind power generation and electric vehicle propulsion. He proposes novel electronic gearing using high-performance, magnetless doubly salient brushless machines that offer higher controllability and wider operating ranges. Apart from proposing ideas to cope with existing problems, Dr Lee's work has also opened up new research directions for the next generation of scientists.

Dr Lee has been widely recognized academically: he is the author and co-author of three book chapters, 32 referred journal papers, and 19 conference papers. Over the years, he has been invited to give technical talks to both professional and academic institutions, including the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE), and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Among other achievements, he has successfully developed some of his conceptual ideas for the practical world, filing two applications for patents.

Dr Lee's success is all the more remarkable as throughout his PhD study: he worked as a full-time demonstrator in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, administering the teaching duties of over 150 postgraduate research students.

Dr Lee has received many academic awards, including the prestigious *Croucher Fellowship* to support his postdoctoral research in MIT, where he is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow. His thesis has also been selected as the *Springer Theses* to recognize its scientific excellence. He is now engaged in projects with several *Forbes 500* companies, including *Magna International Inc.*, and a robotics company.

## **LI KA SHING PRIZES (2015-16)**

### ***Best PhD theses in the Faculties of Dentistry, Engineering, Medicine and Science***

**Dr HE Bailiang (PhD)**  
***Department of Medicine***

Thesis Title:

Functional Study of Zebrafish Flt3 in Embryonic Hematopoiesis with Particular Reference to Modeling Human FLT3/ITD AML

Supervisor:

Professor A.Y.H. Leung, Department of Medicine

Dr He's thesis details his research on one of the most lethal cancers in Hong Kong: human acute myeloid leukemia (AML). His work focuses on providing mechanistic insights and identifying novel therapeutic agents. Dr He stands out from his peers by pursuing an innovative research pathway. His novel zebrafish model based on aberrant expression of human leukemia genes has become a robust model for high throughput drug screening. The work described in the thesis has had significant impact on the pathogenesis of FLT3-ITD AML and provides important technological advances in the modeling of human diseases using zebrafish

Dr He's work has attracted considerable international attention, leading to a collaboration with UCSF in which he made use of this model to validate the activity of potent FLT3 inhibitor for the treatment of AML using what was his then newly-developed zebrafish model. He has published in high-impact journals, served on journal editorial boards and presented his work in international conferences.

Dr He has received several awards during his PhD study, most notably the Yu To Sang and Yu Shing Keung Memorial Fund Scholarship and Dr KP Stephen Chang Gold Medal. Following his PhD graduation, Dr He was recruited as a Post-doctoral Fellow in HKU's Department of Medicine. His work focuses on studying normal and malignant hematopoiesis in zebrafish, mice, and humans, with particular interest in developing novel therapeutics for human acute myeloid leukemia.

## **HONG KONG PhD FELLOWSHIPS (2017-18)**

The Hong Kong PhD Fellowship (HKPF) Scheme was established by the Hong Kong Research Grants Council (RGC) in 2009. The HKPF aims at attracting the best and brightest students across the world to pursue their PhD programmes in Hong Kong.

### **Faculty of Arts**

**Mr BARUA, Dipen**

*(Centre of Buddhist Studies)*

**Miss USAI, Giulia**

*(School of English)*

**Mrs CSILLAG, Eszter Maria**

*(School of Humanities (Fine Arts))*

**Mr YUNG Tim King Fai**

*(School of Humanities (History))*

### **Faculty of Business and Economics**

**Mr LI Tong**

### **Faculty of Dentistry**

**Miss LIN Yifan**

### **Faculty of Education**

**Miss LEE Ka Wing Katherine**

*(Centre for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning)*

**Ms HU Liru**

### **Faculty of Engineering**

**Mr CHEN Yiqiang**

**Miss FENG Qingqing**

**Miss LI Qiuyun**

**Mr ZHAN Xingbin**

*(Department of Civil Engineering)*

**Miss HUANG Xuejing**

*(Department of Computer Science)*

**Mr EL HALLAOUI, Karim**

**Miss LIANG Hui Wen Rebecca**

**Mr ZHANG Qi**

*(Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering)*

**Miss WANG Xin**

*(Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering)*

**Mr FANG Ge**  
(*Department of Mechanical Engineering*)

**Faculty of Law**  
**Miss ZHANG Shengyue**  
(*Department of Law*)

**Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine**  
**Miss YAN Xingqun**  
(*Department of Medicine*)

**Miss ZHANG Xi**  
(*Department of Microbiology*)

**Mr CHEUNG Chun Chung**  
**Mr JE Shun Hang**  
**Mr POON Chi Him**  
(*School of Biomedical Sciences*)

**Miss LIM Wey Wen**  
**Ms RATH, Abigail Ada**  
(*School of Public Health*)

**Faculty of Science**  
**Mr LAU Ho Yan Matthew**  
**Miss QIAO Guanlin**  
(*Department of Chemistry*)

**Mr ROY Arindam**  
(*Department of Earth Sciences*)

**Mr LYU Junlong**  
(*Department of Mathematics*)

**Mr CHEN Ziqi**  
**Miss DUFOUR, Pauline Celine Julie**  
**Mr YUAN Felix Landry**  
**Miss ZHOU Yue**  
(*School of Biological Sciences*)

**Faculty of Social Sciences**  
**Mr MUKHIN, Nikolai**  
(*Department of Politics and Public Administration*)

**Miss SO Tsz Yan**  
(*Department of Psychology*)

**Mr LI Xiaotian**  
(*Department of Sociology*)

### **CROUCHER FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIPS/SCHOLARSHIPS (2017-18)**

The Croucher Foundation is a private endowment set up in 1979 and permanently domiciled in Hong Kong, with the objective of promoting excellence in natural science, technology and medicine in Hong Kong. One of the Foundation's regular funding initiatives is to provide financial support for promising young people in Hong Kong to pursue scientific research at postdoctoral and doctoral levels.

**Dr LU Xu** (*PhD, Department of Mechanical Engineering*)

### **HKU – CAMBRIDGE HUGHES HALL SCHOLARSHIPS SCHEME (2017-18)**

The Scheme supports HKU graduates and PhD students to pursue Master's degrees at Hughes Hall of University of Cambridge with the aim of fostering cultural and intellectual exchanges between students from both universities. The Scheme is funded by **Doris Zimmern Charitable Foundation, Dr Edwin Leong and Mr Tse Sik Yan**. In 2017-18, the following PhD student is awarded a scholarship and currently pursuing his Master's studies at Hughes Hall of Cambridge.

#### **Tse Family HKU - Cambridge Hughes Hall Scholarships**

**Mr LAW Cheuk Ting** (*PhD, Department of Pathology*)

### **FULBRIGHT-RGC HONG KONG RESEARCH SCHOLAR AWARD PROGRAMME (2017-18)**

Starting from the 2002-2003 academic year, the Research Grants Council, in collaboration with the United States Consulate-General in Hong Kong, launched the Fulbright Hong Kong Scholar Programme to support Hong Kong scholars to undertake research and teaching work in the United States.

**Mr CHOI Tsun Man William** (*PhD, Faculty of Education*)

**Ms HUANG Weijie** (*PhD, Department of Law*)

**Miss TANG Suqin** (*PhD, Department of Social Work and Social Administration*)

**Miss YIU Sze Wan Rachel** (*PhD, Department of Surgery*)

**Ms YIU Suet Yee** (*PhD, School of Humanities (Linguistics)*)

**Miss ZHANG Xiaohan** (*PhD, Department of Law*)

### **THREE MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION AWARDS (2017)**

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT<sup>®</sup>) Competition was developed by The University of Queensland, Australia in 2008. This is an academic competition that challenges research postgraduate (RPg) students to explain their research within three minutes to a general audience. The Knowledge Exchange Office and the Graduate School has jointly organized the HKU 3MT<sup>®</sup> Competition since 2011.

#### **Champion and Online People's Choice Award Winner**

**Mr CHAN Ming Yan** (*MPhil, Department of Physics*)

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up and People's Choice Award Winner**

**Dr GHOSH, Shrestha** (*PhD, School of Biomedical Sciences*)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up**

**Dr MAK Sze Yi** (*PhD, Department of Mechanical Engineering*)