

CULTURAL HERITAGE



Martial Arts Meets Technology

Hong Kong Shue Yan University has made significant strides in cultural preservation and digital innovation through the Chinese Martial Art and Sports Culture Communication project, led by Dr. Ka Man Lee. The aim of this initiative, supported by generous donations, is to document and promote the essence of Chinese martial arts, particularly Ving Tsun and Tai Chi by integrating cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and virtual reality (VR). The project has garnered widespread attention from schools and mainstream media, highlighting its relevance and impact.



Research activities included the development of the Virtual AI Ving Tsun learning system, which has been adopted by partner schools for various events, including open days and National Security Education Day. This system has been instrumental in raising awareness and interest in Ving Tsun among students. Additionally, the team has shared its research findings with educators through training courses organized by the Curriculum Development Institute, Education Bureau, emphasizing the integration of physical education and STEAM education.

The project also engaged healthcare professionals to explore the application of positive thinking through Chinese martial arts in personal development. Seminars and workshops, such as the Mindful Ving Tsun seminar, have been conducted to share insights and promote the benefits of martial arts. Furthermore, the project has facilitated international cultural exchange, with over 300 martial artists from various countries participating in events at HKSYU, showcasing the global impact of Chinese martial arts.

The project's achievements were showcased at a launch ceremony on January 27, 2024, at the Dorothy KOO and Dr. Ti Hua KOO Plaza, featuring an extensive seven-day exhibition titled "Experiencing the Communication Power of Martial Artists – Setting Sail from Hong Kong 70 Years Ago." This event drew attention from both academic forums and the general public. The exhibition's comprehensive approach was reflected in its thoughtfully organized structure, comprising five major sections that presented a rich showcase of martial arts history and development. Visitors were treated to an impressive collection of historical artifacts, including authentic combat challenge letters, traditional discipleship certificates, detailed martial arts manuals, and significant international literature. These carefully curated materials effectively chronicled the evolution of how Chinese martial arts practitioners have successfully promoted their skills and cultural values through various communication channels – mass media, interpersonal interactions, and organizational networks – across Hong Kong, Macau, and international territories over the past several decades.

INNOVATING TRADITIONS

The social impacts of this project are profound. The project team has successfully created a dynamic platform for cultural exchange and learning, attracting younger generations to traditional Chinese culture. The use of AI and 5G technology has made martial arts more accessible to a global audience, preserving traditional knowledge while modernizing its delivery. The project has also enhanced national identity among students and participants, as evidenced by the extensive media coverage and positive feedback from various stakeholders.

The initiative has fostered collaboration between schools and martial arts masters, promoting the values of Chinese culture, such as respect for teachers and masters. The inclusion of Ving Tsun in physical education curricula has further solidified its role in education. Additionally, the project has contributed to personal development by encouraging positive thinking and mindfulness through martial arts practice.



“Empowering global communities by preserving and modernizing the essence of Chinese martial arts.”



Related Publications

李家文(2021)《武藝傳承—香港葉問詠春口述歷史》香港：三聯書店。

李家文、彭芷敏 (2022)《香港非遺與葉問詠春—阿樺秘笈》香港：三聯書店。

李家文、林援森 (2024)《踵武新語：中華武術與體育 文化傳播研究薈萃》香港：三聯書店。

Funding: Tin Ka Ping Foundation, Mr. Zen Wei Peu