

## Youth Identity Status and its Psychosocial Correlates

Professor CHEUNG Yuet-Wah

Professor CHEUNG Yuet-Wah, Department of Sociology, leads a group of researchers from Business Administration, Counselling and Psychology, and Social Work studying the Youth Identities Status and its development in a three-year longitudinal study (UGC/IDS(C)/15/H01/19). The development of identities status and its interaction with psychosocial variables are analyzed. The psychosocial variables include prosocial behavior and civic engagement, deviant behavior, use of social media, and career uncertainty. The aim of the project is to identify significant factors contributing to the formation of positive identities. The final phase will involve the evaluation of youth career decision and vocational experiences in relation to their identity status. Dr. Raysen CHEUNG recently completed another project targeting the career development of sub-degree students and their graduate adjustment. An assessment for vocational identity has been developed and validated to be used in career counseling services.

The Youth Identity project has come to its third year. Despite the delay in data collection due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the research team presented initial findings at a seminar, *Youth in Turbulent Times: Constructing and Strengthening Youth Identity in Hong Kong*. Prof. Daniel T. L. Shek, Chair Professor of Applied Social Sciences, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, gave a keynote speech. Associations providing support services to youth also joined and shared their views on youth development and related challenges. The research team and the guest speakers joined a roundtable discussion to further exchange their views on youth identity status and its service implications.

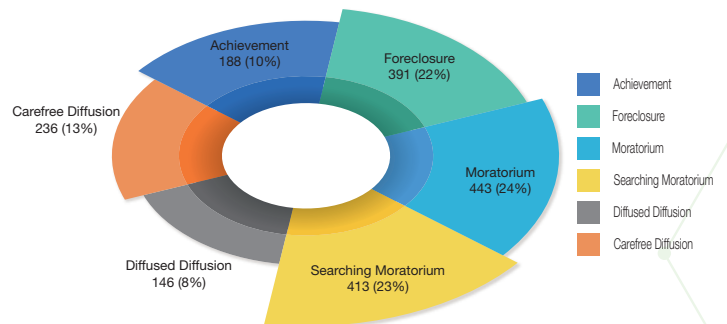


The research team and guest speakers of the seminar: *Youth in Turbulent Times: Constructing and Strengthening Youth Identity in Hong Kong* (UGC/IDS(C)/15/H01/19)



PC Professor CHEUNG Yuet-Wah of *Youth Identity Status and its Psychosocial Correlates: A Longitudinal Study in Hong Kong* (UGC/IDS(C)/15/H01/19)

### Dimensions of Identity Development Scale (DIDS) among Youth in Hong Kong (n=1,817)



First Wave Initial Findings About Youth Identities Status (UGC/IDS(C)/15/H01/19)

### Expected Impact

The major pathway to impact that is being constructed is the building up of connections with organizations involved in youth work, including agencies, secondary and post-secondary schools, government departments and policymakers in youth policy and services. The online seminar held on August 13, 2022, attended by 50 representatives of agencies, schools, and individual professionals, was a first step to engage a large number of organizations by introducing them to the important issue of identity status of young people with the preliminary findings of the project. The good turnout and positive responses of agencies in the seminar are a clear signal that the team will be able to achieve “reach” and “significance” in our impact later. When data of all four waves of data collection are ready in 2023, the team will be able to successfully engage the agencies and schools to work together on designing preventive and intervention strategies that could help young people to develop favourable identities and yield associated positive psychosocial attitudes and behaviour. While all parties concerned will benefit from the process of creating social impact, the major beneficiaries of the project will be young people in Hong Kong.