



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Facility

HKBU Fact Check



To tackle the ever-growing trend of misinformation and fake news, the School of Communication and Film has set up and independently operated “HKBU Fact Check”. It is the first fact-check service operated by an independent academic institution in Hong Kong. Our fact-checkers have received comprehensive training to act under the code of principles of fact-checking and are required to pass three rounds of fact-checking tests, as well as to sign the Declaration of Interest Form before performing any fact-checking. HKBU strives to pursue the truth, uphold journalistic professionalism, and reduce the level of misinformation in mass media.



If fear is triggered, without guidance and encouragement at the first step of the vaccination process, fear arousal will backfire and may have unintended effects.

Dr Xinzhi Zhang



Event

Have You Fact Checked Today?

A fact-checking seminar was organised by Mr Raymond Li, Co-Director of “HKBU Fact Check”. The seminar focused on sharing techniques needed for fact checking and reminding our students to question the validity of information. Living in an age of information explosion, it is important for our students to learn to distinguish right from wrong and be a wise netizen.



Research

Examining COVID-19 Vaccination Misinformation and Clarification by the Public Sector in Hong Kong

In light of the widespread COVID-19 vaccine concerns in Hong Kong, Dr Xinzhi Zhang and other researchers conducted a one-year research on this topic. They researched the frequency and nature of the delivery channels used to share COVID-19 vaccine misinformation messages in Hong Kong to address public concerns and hesitancy toward vaccination. His team also offered suggestions on improving the quality of vaccine misinformation clarification messages for the public in the hope of boosting the COVID-19 vaccination rate for the good of the community.

Dr Zhang's research focuses on comparative political communication, digital journalism, health communication, and digital humanities. He was also awarded a research grant from the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (PPR) from the Policy Innovation and Coordination Office (PICO) of the Hong Kong Government.

Dr Xinzhi Zhang

Department of Interactive Media





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Research

Partisan Bias of Perceived Incivility and its Political Consequences: Evidence from Survey Experiments in Hong Kong

To understand how political biases were produced in Hong Kong, Dr Xinzhi Zhang engaged in a research project titled "Partisan Bias of Perceived Incivility and its Political Consequences: Evidence from Survey Experiments in Hong Kong". The research team aimed to examine the emergence and consequences of perceived incivility in disagreement comments under the exposure to presumably uncivil content in society. Raising awareness of uncivil content and behaviours can help citizens to comply with netiquette and further promote a harmonious society.

More information can be found here: <https://doi.org/10.1093/joc/jgab008>.

The Legacies of Political Violence: How do Violence in Protests Shape Citizen Attitudes in Hong Kong?

Dr Samson Yuen, Associate Professor of Department of Government and International Studies, examines in his project how and why citizens' exposure to state violence and their perception of protesters' violence during the protests influence their trust, tolerance, civic participation, mental well-being and attitudes towards political violence. This study, a first of its kind in Hong Kong, combines various methodological approaches, including large-n population surveys, panel surveys and focus group interviews, to produce rich and original evidence to unveil the enduring significance of protest-related violence. It aims to advance the comparative study of modern-day protests, inform policymakers on public sentiments and provide insights to facilitate reconciliation after political upheavals.

This project is supported by a HK\$0.62M General Research Fund by the Research Grants Council.

Education



With a focus on international relations and comparative politics, the Department of Government and International Studies offers two undergraduate programmes with the aim to train students to different aspects of political science:

- Bachelor of Social Sciences (Hons) in Government and International Studies
- Bachelor of Social Sciences (Hons) in European Studies

The BSocSc (Hons) in Government and International Studies seeks to sharpen the student's awareness by incorporating a systematic, comparative and international dimension while the BSocSc (Hons) in European Studies another study programme focuses specifically in Europe, combining the study of European political, social, and cultural affairs with intensive foreign language acquisition.

In top journals
45%

91
Publications

FWCI
1.36