

NEWSLETTER



Credits: JB_1984

Social Issues by Tangi Pui Chi Yip

Hong Kong has been repeatedly ranked as the least affordable housing market around the world for years¹. Uprising house price heightens the barrier of accessing homeownership. In the era of growing marketization and privatization, homeownership has transferred from a right, which used to be primarily provided by the state, to a commodity. In this way, it has gradually become an important dimension of social stratification.

A growing body of research has identified social ramifications of housing and homeownership. Family is the most deeply-researched area – people who opt for homeownership over renting tend to delay their marriages and women living in expensive housing markets tend to postpone their childbearing experience. Scholars also study the relationship between housing and education – previous study finds a positive relationship between house price and quality of schools, and homeownership parents are able to use the equity of house as an additional economic resource to finance their children's education. Other researches examine the relationship between housing and social cohesion and find that homeowners are more socially involved in the community in terms of participation in schools and political organizations.

CONFERENCES

Francisco Olivos - The 3rd New Zealand Asian Studies Society International Conference, Wellington, New Zealand, November 24-27, 2019.

Yao Wei and Aikins Asiama and Kelvin Lam - The 21st Annual Conference of the Hong Kong Sociological Association, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, November 30, 2019.

PUBLICATIONS

- Vivian Wenli Lin, Julie Ham, Guolin Gu, Merina Sunuwar, Chunya Luo, and Laura Gil-Besada. 2019. "Reflections through the lens: Participatory video with migrant domestic workers, asylum seekers and ethnic minorities". *Emotion, Space and Society* 33. ([read the article](#))

¹ UBS Global Real Estate Bubble Index. (2017, September 28). Retrieved from <https://www.ubs.com/global/en/wealth-management/chief-investment-office/life-goals/real-estate/2017/global-real-estate-bubble-index-2017.html>

Cox, W., Pavletich, H., & Hartwich, O. (2017). 13th annual demographia international housing affordability survey: 2017.

Being a Gender Studies Researcher

by Lulu Li

1. What does being a gender researcher mean?

Gender studies researchers share a common passion in finding out hidden reasons for certain gender related issues, reasons that are usually constructed by wider social and cultural forces. Doing research projects from a gender perspective requires scholars to be highly sensitive to different topics in social science research, and be willing to conduct research projects with a mission to promote gender equality in the society. What's more, gender researchers must always be aware of the challenges against socially constructed gender ideologies and binary distinctions including gender itself by studying LGBT+ groups.



As a gender researcher, I myself have experienced transformation regarding the understanding of gender studies. I was at first interested in finding out about different patterns of gender in people's lives, while later on I realized that it was not enough to look at seeming 'gender differences' in people's daily lives, but more investigation in the formation of underlying system and deep-seated social construction processes is required. I have participated in several research projects looking at the mate selection issue in rural China and the public-private life intersection of female entrepreneurs, as well as examining the social construction of doing gender reflected in these issues.

2. How is gender studies different and similar to sociology in terms of approaches, theories and methods?

Gender studies researchers come from different education and discipline backgrounds including sociology. Therefore, there are certainly many similarities between doing research in gender studies and sociology. However, gender studies research is also different from sociology in research approaches.

Like sociological research, gender studies research also requires a complete research design with solid theoretical base and feasible methods. However, gender studies scholars are expected to acquire more situated knowledge when they go into the field, and be aware of breaking the established and stereotyped ideologies. There is no strict limit on the employment of research methods, but researchers always remind themselves about making it possible to tell the true stories of respondents, many times with their own narratives, and reveal the politics of differences and representations when confronting different settings and people in the field. Therefore, more flexible research methods are always welcome in doing gender studies research projects.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ Francisco Olivos, Chen Chen, Wang Peng and Professor Tony Tam were awarded a Chilean fund for the 2-years project "Chile and China research network on education and social stratification".
- ✓ Conference submission deadline:
 - XV World Congress of Rural Sociology - Cairns, Australia, from July 8th to 12th, 2020 - deadline: November 10, 2019. ([see more informations](#))
- ✓ Job ads:
 - Post-doctoral position - Faculty of Education at Beijing Normal University ([see the ad](#))