



Bunmily Studio

Prepare for Application of PhD/MPhil Programme in Sociology



In this issue, we are glad to have an interview with Ms May Lo, who is the staff processing the PhD/MPhil programme application in our department. May kindly provided notices and suggestions about how to prepare for applying PhD/MPhil programme in Sociology.

Q: Every year, there are many PhD or MPhil applicants write to you to ask questions about application. We want to know what's the most common questions you received?

May: Actually, the most common questions are the basic ones that can be found in our **department webpage** or the **online guidance given by Grad School**. For example, “I had a degree from an English-speaking country, can I apply I without TOFLE or IELTS test scores?” “How do I send the recommendation link through the system.” So, my first advice is to carefully search your questions on the webpages we offer. That would help you a lot.

Q: Should applicants contact a professor before application?

May: Our department **does not** require this before your application. But you must contact one professor after you are shortlisted into the interview. That's it.

Q: What if an applicant wants to work with a junior professor?

May: For MPhil students, the assistant professors can supervise them **without** any constraints. For PhD students, the assistant professors can be the **main supervisor** if they have experience of supervising a MPhil student till his/her graduation. Otherwise, the assistant professors can only co-supervise a PhD student.

Q: What's the most common mistakes that you want to mention?

May: (1) Some basic mistakes, such as if you type your **family name and given name in the wrong places** at the application system, would add much more work for us because I cannot change it directly. It can only be corrected through the Graduate School. Similar mistakes including typing your birth date and month at the wrong places; (2) Other mistakes, such as **confusing your master's degree** (taught master or research master) in the application, are easier for us to correct. Because I can correct it for you by reviewing your relevant materials; (3) One thing that is most important for us to clarify: The online application through the system is for the Grad School, while the package of hard copies of the application materials is for the department, the two are separate. Many applicants thought they were the same and delaying sending the hard copies once they submitted the online application. This is a big mistake because **the department only review your hard copies of application within a short time** (two to three weeks). If your hard copies of materials arrived much later than the deadline, you might miss the chance to get nominated.

Q: How about the subsidy on the field work or conferences for PhD students?

May: (1) Our department provides subsidy for fieldwork, covering point-to-point transportation (e.g., Hong Kong to Mainland), accommodation (e.g., House Rent). The amount of this subsidy ranges is 3000 HKD, but the maximum of your expenditure on fieldwork is 6000 HKD. This subsidy will be offered to PhD and MPhil students in our department within normative studying period. (2) Graduate School also offers grants for oversea academic activities, and this funding is up to 30000 HKD during the whole normative study period. This grant can cover transportation (e.g., fee for flight tickets), and conference registration fees.

CONFERENCES

SIU, Cheuk Lap Jacky. “Stigma Management Strategies among Ex-prisoners in Hong Kong”. Paper to be presented at the Asian Criminological Society 12th Annual Conference,, June 18-21, 2021.

How to Teach in the University?

Jun XIANG



I am Jun Xiang, graduated with a PhD in Sociology from CUHK in 2017 and now an assistant professor at Shanghai University. I would love to share some of my teaching experience with you. First of all, attitude is everything. Teaching should bring you joy rather than pain or burden. When I was in high school and a teacher was on a business trip, as an assistant to this teacher, I was assigned to explain to the students how to correct the wrong answers in the tests. I found that I enjoyed standing on the podium and interacting with the students. Although about two decades have passed, this feeling of enjoyment and love has never faded away.

For me, teaching is a process of building my knowledge structure and network. If you like summarizing and organizing knowledge, being logical, and loving to share, you would love teaching in class. Doing research and teaching are different.

Doing research is to answer specific questions by reviewing relevant theoretical arguments and conducting empirical analysis, and more emphasis is placed on innovation and problem-solving. By contrast, teaching is to impart knowledge and let students more effectively understand and master the concepts, theories and thinking styles of a field; therefore, it lays more emphasis upon systematicity and integrity.

Of course, different types of courses require different teaching styles, such as lecture courses and seminar courses. The former is teacher-centered and emphasizes the need for students to listen and grasp quickly, while the latter is student-centered and the teacher guides students to participate in the process of learning by doing. While researchers are usually more accustomed to the latter, I focus on the former here. In order to prepare for a lecture course, you can first learn from the existing textbooks or the syllabus of other scholars. Course structure must be systematic and logical, not only for the entire course, but also for each lesson and section. The structure of each lesson must be clear and logical. Usually with an introduction, main content, summary, and conclusion, supplemented by questions that can be overarching questions at the beginning or extended questions at the end.

The PowerPoint preparation is also important. Avoid using large paragraphs of text, unless it is extremely necessary. Try to present them in an itemized way, keep each item short and concise, and effectively use highlighting, underline, font size, color, etc. To enhance the effect, you can also find some photos and short videos with visual impact that can impress your audience. Also, pay attention to current events and hot news, and think about them deeply and comprehensively, which can be collected and organized as materials. These materials can be integrated with our theoretical views and lecture content to enhance the interest of the audience.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✓ Call for papers

- Special issue on Race, Racism, and Discrimination. **Deadline for Manuscript: January 15, 2022.** [\[See the ad\]](#)
- Special issue of Journal of Labor and Society. Crowdwork and Platform Work: Finding New Strategies to Organise in Europe. **Deadline for abstracts: July 31, 2021.** [\[See the ad\]](#)

✓ Job ads:

- Assistant Professor in Sociology/Anthropology of Environment in South Asia, The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The National University of Singapore. **Deadline: July 22, 2021.** [\[See the ad\]](#)
- Postdoctoral Fellow, Family Dynamic in Southeast and East Asia, The Centre for Family and Population Research, The National University of Singapore. **Deadline: July 22, 2021.** [\[See the ad\]](#)
- Post-doctoral Fellow, The Centre for Water Technology and Policy, The Faculty of Social Sciences, The University of Hong Kong. **Deadline: 31 August, 2021.** [\[See the ad\]](#)