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Wan Chow Yuk Fan
CIEBPR
Centre for Interdisciplinary
Evidence-based Practice and Research

The Graduate School

Wan Chow Yuk Fan Centre for Interdisciplinary Evidence-Based Practice & Research (CIEBPR)

2021-2022 Wednesday Lunch Seminar Series

Understanding the Societal Factors of Vaccine Acceptance and Hesitancy: Evidence from Hong Kong

01 DEC 2021 | 12:45pm- 2:15 pm (Hybrid Mode)

📍 **RHB 203, Research Complex, HKSYU**
6 Wai Tsui Crescent, Braemar Hill, Hong Kong

📹 **Zoom Meeting ID: 976 4495 22746**

Speaker: Dr. Samson Yuen

Vaccine hesitancy is an obstacle to the global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. While subjective evaluations and threat appraisal are crucial to vaccination decisions, vaccination is also a social decision, shaped by relational and political factors. This study examines the role of societal factors in contributing to COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in Hong Kong. Using an online survey, we find that societal factors also have significant effects on vaccination decisions. First, citizens are highly influenced by the vaccination decisions of family members, although they are less influenced by friends. Second, trusting public institutions makes people less resistant to the vaccine. People tend to accept the vaccine when they have a weaker perception that vaccination is an act of supporting the government. Our findings thus highlight the importance of a nuanced conception of interpersonal and political influence in contributing to vaccine acceptance/hesitancy.

Dr. Samson Yuen is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Government and International Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University. He studies contentious politics, civil conflicts, public opinion, health and food politics, focusing particularly on East Asia. His articles are either published or forthcoming in Political Studies, Government and Opposition, Geopolitics, Mobilization, Social Movement Studies, The China Quarterly, Journal of Contemporary China and Modern China. He holds a DPhil in Politics from Oxford University.

Chaired by: Dr Bobo Lau
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