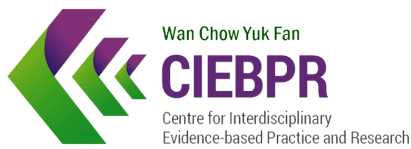


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**Wan Chow Yuk Fan Centre for Interdisciplinary
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2021-2022 Wednesday Lunch Seminar Series

Disaster and Social Work of Hope: the story of Yingxiu mothers in 2008 Wenchuan "5.12 earthquake"

23 FEB 2022 | 12:30pm - 2:00pm (Hybrid Mode)

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

 **Zoom Meeting ID: 976 4495 22746**

Speaker: Dr. Ben Hok-bun KU

Many countries face destructive damage caused by natural hazards. China suffers numerous natural hazards leading to disasters including earthquakes, typhoons, mudslides, floods. The impact of the disaster on social level is also phenomenal and the challenge of recovery, rehabilitation and rebuilding is daunting. As a helping profession, social work in Western societies has a long history in dealing with the aftermath of disasters and it has been well documented that social work is most effective in traumatic stress management, delivery of resources and services to vulnerable populations. However, social work practice is culturally-relevant and locality-specific. In this presentation, speaker will introduce the social work disaster intervention in Chinese mainland based on his own experiences in participating in disaster relief and post-disaster community reconstruction in Chinese mainland since 2008 Wenchuan '5.12 earthquake'. He will particularly use the story of "Yingxiu mother" to demonstrate how social workers facilitate the participation of the women who suffered from losing their children in an embroidery project, which was not only for the income generation and long term livelihood, but also for the healing of post-disaster trauma, building local capacity, and igniting the hope of life.

Dr Ben Hok-bun Ku holds a PhD from the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at SOAS, University of London. He is the honorable professor at China Youth University for Political Sciences and is the Associate Professor, Programme Leader of Doctor in Social Work (DSW) and Sociology Panel Chair in the Department of Applied Social Sciences at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He is also the Director of China and Global Development Network and Co-Director of the Peking University-The Hong Kong Polytechnic University China Social Work Research Centre, Associate Editor of Action Research Journal, and Chief Editor of China Journal of Social Work. He was Fulbright Scholar at Washington University in St. Louis in 2007 and Senior Research Fellow at Durham University in UK. He has been a visiting professor at the Minzu University of China, Yunnan University, Sun Yat-sen University in China, and Shandong Youth University for Political Sciences. He has also been a visiting scholar at the Central China Agriculture University, Taiwan National Central University and York University in Toronto. Dr Ku strongly engages in practice and participatory action research in Hong Kong and Mainland China. With more than fifteen years of experience, he has been writing extensively on topics related to rural development, disaster intervention, participatory design, social exclusion and marginality, and social work education.



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Chaired by: Dr Ruth Zhou
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