

7th Graduate Student Conference on Becoming Agents of Technological Change

CALL FOR ABSTRACT

The deployment of technologies worldwide has over time reshaped the different sectors and brought tremendous impacts on the social, economic and political spheres of society. While such technological changes are very evident in the developed world, it remains a big challenge to equitably and qualitatively scale up these innovations globally. How did technologies first emerge as possible fix for the many challenges faced in the developed world and what insights can be drawn when these technologies were to be transplanted to Asia today? Some examples of embracing technologies can be seen in the field of Education where learning experiences of students can now be more diversified as well as facilitate students with special needs. In the field of Sports and Health, technologies are crucial in improving sports performance, facilitating the health promotion and making it “fashionable” to adopt healthy lifestyles in the 21st century. However, technologies do not automatically erase disparities across countries or among social groups in terms of access to information and services. In fact, some studies have shown that technological changes may foster uneven development and further alienate the marginalized groups in certain communities. It is therefore important to interrogate from a sociological perspective to what extent could the state intervene on the applications of technology and to harness its potential in order to align with the current momentum of development in Asia? What are the historical roles of science, technology and innovation in Asia and are there any agents or actors of “trans-local connections of innovation”? How then should we engage and reflect critically on modern debates about sustainability, globalization, inclusion and the betterment of life through technologies?

Some possible areas of discussion (but not limited to):

- Social equality and application of technologies in Asia
- Technology-assisted teaching and learning in modern education
- Politics and contemporary debates on technological changes
- Agents and/or historical developments of science and innovation
- Geographical sciences for smart societies
- Innovative technologies in sports and health promotion
- Technology and fostering a spirit of inclusivity

We invite all established and emerging scholars as well as social sciences graduate students, including doctoral and masters students, to present your research findings. We would like to initiate conversations and exchange ideas on *Becoming Agents of Technological Change* that cut across disciplinary boundaries. We also hope that this conference will provide opportunities for students to

- practice their presentation and academic writing skills
- connect with professors and potential research partners
- increase the visibility of their research
- learn frontier research issues conducted at other universities, both in their own and in other disciplines

We invite students to submit abstracts **in English*** individually and join us on Wednesday, 17 April 2019. Please kindly note the following guidelines:

*Chinese is acceptable only for students whose primary sources are wholly in Chinese.

Form of presentation

Type of Presentation	Oral presentation (20 minutes each)
Language	English only <i>*presentation in Chinese will be accepted only for students whose research topic/raw data (primary sources are) is wholly in Chinese.</i>

Registration and Abstracts Submission

Word Limit	Within 300 words. <i>No references, figures, or charts should be included in the abstract.</i>
Registration	https://hkbuhk.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6RQ22EcNxIPydWI
Submission Deadline	15 February 2019
Notice of acceptance	Around March 2019

Additional Information

1. The full conference programme will be announced 2 to 3 weeks before the conference.
2. Participation and registration fees are waived.
3. Accommodation: Conference participants from outside of Hong Kong can inform us, with their proposal, if they would be interested in booking a room at the [NTT International Guest House](#) (subject to availability). The room rate is HK\$920 (approx. USD 120) each room per night.
4. Visa information: Participants are requested to check the relevant Hong Kong visa requirements as soon as possible. It is the participants' responsibility to investigate the visa requirements and to apply for a visa, if necessary. As the average processing time for a visa can take up to 2 months, we recommend visa applications to be made by end of January.
5. Enquiry Email: soscrpgconf@project.hkbu.edu.hk.