Session One 14:30 - 15:30

**Framing the Issue of Asylum Seekers and Refugees for Tougher Refugee Policy - A Study of the Media’s Portrayal in Post-colonial Hong Kong**

Dr NG Fung Sheung Isabella, Associate Head (Teaching and Learning) and Assistant Professor

**Abstract:**
Policy makers often advocate policies, especially immigration policies, by referring to media reports and public attitudes. This is best exemplified in Hong Kong, an international financial hub that prides itself on its multiculturalism and pluralism; government officials and pro-establishment legislators have been calling for tougher measures because of a plethora of negative news reports on immigrants. This study examines how print media frame the issue of asylum seekers and refugees between June 1, 2015, and July 31, 2016, and its effects on attempts to implement tougher policies in Hong Kong. We used a keyword search of the WiseNews database and Google search to locate 358 relevant news articles for analyses. The findings indicate that the majority of local Chinese news articles on print media had a negative depiction, and most articles framed asylum seekers as “false refugees” and “criminals”. This study examines newspapers’ framing of the causes of asylum seekers, providing reasons for anti-refugee policy makers to suggest tougher solutions to eradicate asylum seekers and refugees. The results show that local Chinese news articles recommended 1) setting up detention camps, 2) enforcing stricter border control, and 3) withdrawing from the UN (CAT).

Session Two 15:30-16:30


Dr He Jingwei Alex, Associate Head (Research and Development) and Associate Professor

**Abstract:**
Because the financing and provision of welfare ultimately depends on citizens’ willingness to pay taxes and insurance contributions, it is vital to understand public attitudes toward the welfare system. By analyzing primary data collected in Zhubai City, this study examines Chinese people’s attitudes toward contributory social security programs. The study’s multidimensional conceptual framework synthesizes the dual roles that people play in social security and examines their respective attitudes. Self-interest and ideology models were both tested in the Chinese context. As ordinary citizens, people’s expectation for governmental responsibility in social security appears to be high. As contributors to the system, their willingness to pay premiums is also on the high side. Multivariate analysis was used to examine their respective determinants. This study provides contextual explanations for the attitudinal patterns observed in Zhubai and draws useful policy implications for China’s social policy reforms.

Seats will be allocated on a first-come first-serve basis.

For registration and enquiries, please email to aps@edu.hk.