Professor Ambrose King Yeo-chi, SBS, JP
Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*

Professor Ambrose King Yeo-chi, born in 1935 in Haiyan, Zhejiang Province, China, earned both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in legal and political studies in Taiwan and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Pittsburgh.

Joining The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) in 1970, Professor King enjoyed a distinguished career spanning three decades. He served in key leadership roles including Chairman of the Department of Sociology, Head of New Asia College, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and CUHK's fifth Vice-Chancellor from 2002 to 2004. Upon his retirement in 2004, he was appointed Emeritus Professor of Sociology. Professor King was elected an Academician of Academia Sinica in 1994 and is also a member of the Xiling Seal Engraver's Society.

Professor King's scholarship has significantly shaped the study of Chinese society, focusing on modernisation, the interplay between tradition and modernity, and socio-political development. His major publications include *From Tradition to Modernity* (1966; expanded in 2024), *The Modern Turn of China* (2004), *The Modern Transformation of Chinese Civilisation* (2016), *China's Great Transformation: Selected Essays on Confucianism, Modernization, and Democracy* (2018), and *The Changes in Chinese Scholarship and Culture Over a Century* (2020). In 2025, his *Collected Academic Works of Ambrose King* was published in five volumes. Other landmark contributions include *The Idea of a University* (1983), which explores the integration of truth, virtue, and beauty in education, and *Rethinking University* (2017), which examines the holistic mission of higher education.

Beyond research, Professor King has authored essay collections such as *Cambridge Musings*, *Heidelberg Musing*, and *Dunhuang Musings*. His six-volume *Calligraphy Collection of Ambrose King* reflects his deep engagement with traditional Chinese calligraphy.

Professor King has also made significant contributions to public service and academic governance, serving bodies including the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), the Law Reform Commission, the Central Policy Unit, the University Grants Committee, and the Research Grants Council. His contributions to academia and society have been recognised with numerous honours, including the Silver Bauhinia Star from the Hong Kong Government in 1998 and honorary doctorates from The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (1998) and CUHK (2005).

Professor King's contributions to sociology, education, and cultural studies

continues to exert a lasting influence. His work bridges Eastern and Western traditions, deepening understanding of socio-political development and emphasising the importance of pluralistic cultural exchange.

Dr the Hon Starry Lee Wai-king, GBS, JP
Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*

Dr the Hon Starry Lee Wai-king, born in 1974 and raised in Hong Kong, has devoted over 25 years to distinguished public service. A professional accountant and a fellow of the Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute, she obtained a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and Business Administration from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), followed by an MBA from the University of Manchester. In 2024, she earned a Doctor of Laws from Tsinghua University.

Dr Lee began her public service career in 1999 at the age of 25, when she became one of the youngest directly elected district councillors. During her tenure, she focused on improving public housing and strengthening grassroots family support. In 2004, she joined the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong (DAB), the city's largest political party.

Elected to the Legislative Council (LegCo) in 2008, Dr Lee became known for her work on housing, welfare, education, and youth development, while building bridges between the community, the legislature, and the executive authorities. From 2012 to 2016, she served concurrently as District Councillor, Legislative Councillor, and Non-official Member of the Executive Council, contributing to the alignment of government policies with community needs.

In 2015, Dr Lee made history as the first female Chairwoman of DAB, where she advanced professionalisation, youth engagement, and grassroots development. Nationally, she has served as a Hong Kong Deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC) and is the sole Standing Committee member of the 14th NPC from Hong Kong. In these roles, she has worked to integrate Hong Kong's development with national strategies, including the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area initiatives.

A strong advocate for education, Dr Lee has actively promoted constitutional, Basic Law, and patriotic education. As Chair of the patriotic education working group under the Steering Committee on the Promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law, she supports integrating national history and civic education into school curricula. At EdUHK, where she is an Honorary Professor, she contributes to shaping future leaders through public administration and governance programmes.

In January 2026, Dr Lee was elected as the eighth President of LegCo. She is committed to impartial governance, ensuring legislative cooperation with the executive branch and aligning policies with national development goals. Her contributions to public service have been widely recognised, including the

award of the Gold Bauhinia Star and an Honorary Fellowship from HKUST in 2022.

Professor Jeffrey Pfeffer
Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*

Professor Jeffrey Pfeffer is the Thomas D. Dee II Professor of Organisational Behaviour at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business, where he has been a faculty member since 1979. He is internationally recognised for his pioneering work on power, influence, and organisations, as well as his advocacy for evidence-based management. His scholarship has shaped modern organisational theory by illuminating the connections between leadership, workplace environments, and human well-being, shaping the foundations of modern organisational theory.

Professor Pfeffer earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at Carnegie Mellon University before completing a PhD at Stanford University. His doctoral thesis introduced the ground-breaking "resource dependence theory," which remains a cornerstone of strategic management, exploring how external resources influence organisational behaviour.

Early in his career, Professor Pfeffer joined the University of Illinois as Assistant Professor, where he collaborated with Professor Gerald R. Salancik. They co-authored the seminal work *The External Control of Organizations: A Resource Dependence Perspective*, that established Professor Pfeffer as a leading thinker in organisational behaviour. After a period at the University of California, Berkeley, he returned to Stanford, becoming one of the university's youngest full professors.

Over more than four decades, Professor Pfeffer has produced an extraordinary body of scholarship spanning organisational power and politics, human resource management, workplace well-being, and the translation of knowledge into action. His influential titles include *The Knowing-Doing Gap*, *Competitive Advantage Through People*, *Dying for a Paycheck*,and *7 Rules of Power*. He has authored or co-authored 16 books and more than 160 articles and book chapters. With nearly 200,000 citations, his research reaches a global audience through academic journals, mainstream publications, and his podcast, *Pfeffer on Power*.

Professor Pfeffer has held visiting positions at prestigious institutions such as Harvard Business School, London Business School, and Singapore Management University, Copenhagen Business School and IESE Business School in Barcelona. His contributions have earned him numerous accolades, including the Academy of Management's Richard D. Irwin Scholarly Contributions to Management Award, an honorary doctorate from Tilburg University, and induction into the Thinkers50 Hall of Fame. He has also been named one of the Most Influential HR Thinkers by *HR Magazine*.

Professor Pfeffer's work is distinguished by its call for fairer, healthier, and more humane workplaces. By combining intellectual leadership with a profound sense of justice, he continues to transform the study of organisations and inspire leaders and scholars worldwide.