香港教育大學
The Education University of Hong Kong

大學正名十周年
The 10th Anniversary of the University's Retitling

HONORARY AWARDS Ceremony

榮譽博士及榮譽院士頒授典禮

2026

Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*
榮譽教育學博士

Professor Ambrose King Yeo-chi, SBS, JP
金耀基教授，SBS, JP

Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*
榮譽社會科學博士

Dr the Hon Starry Lee Wai-king, GBS, JP
李慧琼議員，GBS, JP

Professor Jeffrey Pfeffer
Jeffrey Pfeffer 教授

Honorary Fellows
榮譽院士

The Hon George Lau Ka-keung, BBS, MH, JP
樓家強議員，BBS, MH, JP

Mrs Mei Ng Fong Siu-mei, BBS
吳方笑薇女士，BBS

The Hon Jimmy Ng Wing-ka, SBS, BBS, JP
吳永嘉議員，SBS, BBS, JP

Mr Irons Sze, GBS, BBS, JP
施榮懷先生，GBS, BBS, JP

CITATIONS FOR HONORARY DOCTORS

榮譽博士讚辭

Professor Ambrose King Yeo-chi, SBS, JP

Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*

Mr Chairman of the Council,

It is my profound honour to present to you Professor Ambrose King Yeo-chi for the award of the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*.

Professor King is a distinguished and world-renowned scholar, sociologist, educator, and thinker, whose decades-long academic career has significantly shaped the intellectual and cultural foundations of Chinese society and modern higher education.

Born in 1935 in Haiyan, Zhejiang Province, China, Professor King's academic journey exemplifies intellectual rigour and global vision. He began his studies in Taiwan, earning a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in legal and political studies. In 1970, he completed his Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Pittsburgh in the United States, a formative experience that set the foundation for his lifelong exploration of the interplay between tradition, modernity, and sociopolitical development in Chinese societies.

Professor King's scholarly contributions have significantly influenced sociology and the humanities, particularly in analysing China's multifaceted path to modernisation. His seminal works, including *From Tradition to Modernity* (1966) and its expanded edition (2024), as well as *The Modern Turn of China* (2004), provide landmark insights into the sweeping transformations of Chinese social structures over two centuries, employing the theoretical lens of Max Weber. Professor King's critiques of Western-centric models of modernisation and his emphasis on a pluralistic global culture further enhance his stature as a pioneering figure in the study of Chinese modernisation.

Esteemed worldwide for his intellectual contributions, Professor King is equally revered for his fearless engagement with sociopolitical issues. Landmark articles like *The Administrative Absorption of Politics in Hong Kong with Special Emphasis on the Grass-Root Leve*l (1975) and *One Country, Two Systems: An Idea on Trial* (1995) are exemplary of his incisive analysis of pivotal topics. These works address Hong Kong's journey from a British-ruled city to an international metropolis, highlighting themes of governance, capitalism, and cultural identity against the backdrop of globalisation.

Professor King's legacy is inextricably tied to The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), where he served with distinction for over 34 years. Joining CUHK in 1970 as a lecturer in sociology, he advanced steadily through positions such as Chairman of the Department of Sociology and Head of New Asia College, before being appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor and eventually, the University's fifth Vice-Chancellor in 2002. His tenure spanned unprecedented challenges, including the SARS epidemic and significant government budget cuts, during which he strengthened governance systems, ensured institutional stability, and spearheaded the establishment of the School of Law. His initiatives, such as the eminent Ch'ien Mu Lecture in History and Culture, revitalised the humanistic spirit in higher education and further consolidated CUHK's standing among the world's top academic institutions.

A visionary leader in higher education, Professor King authored the acclaimed *The Idea of a University* (1983), a work widely recognised in Chinese academic circles. This seminal book reflects his deep commitment to integrating knowledge with moral education. Drawing inspiration from both Western monastic education and the traditional Chinese academy, Professor King championed bilingual education, transdisciplinary learning, and global intellectual exchange. In his follow-up work, *Rethinking University* (2017), he elaborated further on his philosophy by emphasising that universities should pursue not only "truth" but also "virtue" and "beauty", underscoring the holistic mission of education systems in cultivating humanity.

Beyond academia, Professor King has been an exemplary public servant, offering his expertise to Hong Kong's most pivotal governmental 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. Internationally, his influence is reflected in his editorial roles for global academic journals and his election as Academician of Academia Sinica in Taiwan. For his dedicated public service, he was honoured with the Silver Bauhinia Star by the Hong Kong Government in 1998 and received honorary doctorate degrees from The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and CUHK.

Professor King's elegance as a writer mirrors his analytical brilliance. Works such as *Cambridge Musings*, *Heidelberg Musings*, and *Ever in My Heart* reveal his ability to combine scholarship with poetic sensibility, reflecting deeply on the relationship between intellectual inquiry and human values. His lifelong devotion to Chinese calligraphy enriches his legacy further, as he masterfully bridges tradition and modernity while inspiring new generations to preserve and renew the literati traditions of Chinese culture.

Now in his ninth decade, Professor King continues to embody the ethos of a lifelong educator and public intellectual. Even in retirement, he remains remarkably active – crafting essays, continuing his practice of calligraphy, and mentoring younger generations. A devoted advocate for cultural preservation, he seeks to ensure that the younger generation not only inherits China's artistic heritage but also appreciates its relevance to the ongoing evolution of Chinese identity in a globalised world.

Mr Chairman, Professor Ambrose King Yeo-chi's extraordinary career exemplifies intellectual leadership, cultural bridge-building, and educational innovation. His scholarship has not only anticipated the challenges of modernity but has illuminated new paths toward hope, understanding, and coexistence for humanity. On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I proudly present to you Professor Ambrose King Yeo-chi for the award of the degree of Doctor of Education.

Dr the Hon Starry Lee Wai-king, GBS, JP

Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*

Mr Chairman of the Council,

It is my great honour to present Dr the Hon Starry Lee Wai-king for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*.

Born in 1974 into a grassroots family in Hong Kong and raised in a public housing estate, Dr Lee's life story is deeply intertwined with the city she serves. From an early age, she experienced first-hand the aspirations and daily struggles of ordinary families, shaping her enduring belief that "serving the public starts with serving the community". This conviction has guided her throughout more than a quarter-century of public service.

During primary and secondary school, Dr Lee was active in student and community activities, developing a strong sense of duty and discipline. She then studied accounting and business administration at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), honing her analytical skills and logical thinking, and later obtained an MBA from the University of Manchester. A Hong Kong certified public accountant and a member of the Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute, she has worked at leading international accounting firms. This solid professional foundation equipped her with financial and corporate governance expertise and a deep appreciation for the needs and pressures of the middle class and the business community.

In 1999, at just 25, Dr Lee left her professional career to run as an independent candidate in the District Council election. She was successfully elected, becoming one of the youngest directly elected district councillors at the time. Over successive terms, she focused on livelihood issues such as improving public housing facilities and supporting grassroots families, building deep trust with local residents and accumulating rich experience in district governance.

In 2004, Dr Lee joined the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong (DAB), marking a new stage in her public service. In 2008, she was elected to the Legislative Council (LegCo), formally elevating her advocacy from the district level to HKSAR's legislature.

As a lawmaker, Dr Lee has always seen herself as a bridge between the community, the legislature and the executive authorities. Over many years in LegCo, she has actively addressed issues related to housing, welfare, education and youth development, with a particular emphasis on easing the pressures faced by both grassroots and middle-class families.

Beyond the legislature, Dr Lee also contributed at the highest levels of the HKSAR's governance. From 2012 to 2016, she served as a Non-official Member of the Executive Council, becoming at that time one of the few politicians to serve concurrently on the District Council, Legislative Council and Executive Council. This unique three-tier experience strengthened her ability to coordinate across institutions, align policies with community needs, and support more effective implementation.

In 2015, Dr Lee was elected as DAB's fourth Chairwoman, becoming the party's first female leader and one of its youngest chairpersons. Under her leadership, the party placed greater emphasis on professionalisation and youth engagement, encouraging more professionals and young people to take part in public affairs, and strengthening its role in connecting grassroots communities with national development opportunities.

Dr Lee firmly believes that Hong Kong's future is closely linked to the development of the country. As a Hong Kong Deputy to the National People's Congress, and later the HKSAR's sole member of the Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress, she has taken on important national responsibilities, explaining Hong Kong's situation to central authorities while also helping the city better seize opportunities arising from national strategies and the development of the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area.

Committed to nurturing the younger generation and shaping future leaders, Dr Lee has played a prominent role in promoting constitutional and Basic Law education, as well as patriotic education, in Hong Kong. As Chair of a working group on patriotic education under the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee, she actively supported the integration of patriotic education into school curricula and community activities, encouraging young people to gain a deeper understanding of the nation's history and development so that they can better contribute to its future.

As Honorary Professor at The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK), Dr Lee has maintained close ties with the University. Through guest lectures and dialogues with students, including on themes such as the nation's legislative system, the work of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, and Hong Kong's unique role under "one country, two systems", she helps students develop a stronger sense of national identity, civic responsibility and global perspective. She also teaches public administration and governance in the University's Executive Master of Public Administration and Leadership programme, cultivating leaders to advance Hong Kong's and the nation's continued growth and development.

In January 2026, Dr Lee was elected as the eighth President of LegCo, marking another milestone in her distinguished career in public service. Under her leadership, she is committed to presiding over meetings fairly and impartially under the Rules of Procedure, ensuring that all Members can fulfil their duties and that the legislature and the executive work together to promote good governance. She also pays particular attention to how LegCo can complement the nation's 14th and forthcoming 15th Five-Year Plans, so that Hong Kong can better leverage its strengths in areas such as finance, innovation and technology, and professional services.

Despite her demanding schedule, Dr Lee has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to academic excellence, earning a Doctor of Laws from Tsinghua University in 2024. Her remarkable contributions to public service have earned widespread recognition. In 2022, she was awarded the prestigious Gold Bauhinia Star in recognition of her distinguished service, exemplary leadership in legislative governance, and impactful roles as both a LegCo member and a district councillor. That same year, she was conferred an Honorary Fellowship by HKUST for her significant contributions to local politics and her transformative impact on the lives of the people of Hong Kong.

Mr Chairman, Dr Lee's relentless commitment to serving the people of Hong Kong and advancing the city's development is profound. Her dedication to fostering integration with national development, particularly for the younger generation, has left an indelible mark on the city. On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I proudly present Dr the Hon Starry Lee Wai-king for the award of an Honorary Doctorate of Social Sciences.

Professor Jeffrey Pfeffer

Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*

Mr Chairman of the Council,

It is my great honour to present Professor Jeffrey Pfeffer for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*.

As the Thomas D. Dee II Professor of Organizational Behaviour at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business, Professor Pfeffer has redefined how we understand power, influence and organisations. His fearless academic pursuits and advocacy for evidence-based management have illuminated the intricate connections between leadership, workplace environments, and human well-being, shaping the foundation of modern organisational theory and creating lasting impact far beyond academia.

Professor Pfeffer's journey into academia is as inspiring as his scholarship. Initially aspiring to a corporate career, he completed a bachelor's degree in Administration and Management Science followed by a master's in Industrial Administration at Carnegie-Mellon University. During his master's programme, however, an ordinary talk on corporate careers turned into a profound moment of clarity. Recognising that his character might not align with the rigid hierarchies of corporate life, he pursued a planning role at a military think tank after graduation. Although the position offered intellectual stimulation, it ultimately lacked the depth he craved. That search for intellectual meaning led him to Stanford, where he embarked on a PhD in Organisational Behaviour, setting the stage for a career that would leave an indelible mark on the world of management scholarship.

One of the defining moments in Professor Pfeffer's career came early, as he developed the ground-breaking 'resource dependence theory' during his doctoral studies. This theory, which explores how organisations are influenced by external agents or actors that control critical resources, challenged conventional thinking about the importance of leadership and brought new perspectives to organisational behaviour. But his boldness was met with scepticism. When applying for academic roles, his unconventional ideas were dismissed by leading institutions. One professor candidly offered him a stark choice: conform to conventional research trends or pursue the ideas he believed were truly important. Professor Pfeffer remained resolute in his vision, choosing to chart his own course to theoretical discovery.

This brave decision paid off. On joining the University of Illinois as an Assistant Professor, he forged a partnership with Professor Gerald R. Salancik, a fellow trailblazer in organisational thought. Together, they expanded upon Professor Pfeffer's doctoral work, co-authoring *The External Control of Organizations: A Resource Dependence Perspective*. This seminal book, which remains a cornerstone of organisational theory and strategic management, established Professor Pfeffer as a thought leader in translating complex theoretical ideas into meaningful frameworks for understanding organisational dynamics.

After moving to the University of California at Berkeley in 1973, where he subsequently received tenure, in 1979, Professor Pfeffer became one of the youngest full professors at Stanford University, where he has remained a force for innovation and intellectual leadership for more than four decades. His scholarship spans an extraordinary range of themes, including organisational power and politics, human resource management,

workplace well-being and employee health, evidence-based management, and turning knowledge into action. His influential books, including *The Knowing-Doing Gap, Competitive Advantage Through People, Dying for a Paycheck* and *7 Rules of Power*, have reframed organisational and managerial thinking. His works challenge orthodox views, revealing that factors like visibility, influence and networks often eclipse raw performance in shaping success.

This remarkable body of work underscores the breadth of Professor Pfeffer's scholarship and its profound global influence. He is the author or co-author of 16 books and more than 160 articles and book chapters, and his research has been cited nearly 200,000 times, making his contributions some of the most enduring and impactful in the field of organisational behaviour. However, his influence extends far beyond academic publications. Professor Pfeffer's ideas resonate across public and professional spheres through his writing for globally recognised platforms and his widely acclaimed podcast, *Pfeffer on Power*, which reaches audiences far beyond the academic world.

Beyond his enduring contributions at Stanford, Professor Pfeffer's influence spans the globe. He has held visiting professor roles at premier institutions, including Harvard Business School, London Business School, Singapore Management University, Copenhagen Business School and IESE Business School in Barcelona, where he taught for 14 years. His commitment to advancing knowledge extends across borders, as he continuously engages with new perspectives and audiences. Despite his numerous achievements, he remains deeply driven by a sense of justice and a relentless curiosity about why the world creates, and perpetuates, inequities. This drive has fuelled an extraordinary career of bold inquiry and fearless intellectual exploration.

Over the years, Professor Pfeffer's ground-breaking work has earned him recognition and accolades from around the world. Among his honours are the Richard D. Irwin Scholarly Contributions to Management Award from the Academy of Management and an honorary doctorate from Tilburg University. He has also been named a Hank McKinnell-Pfizer Inc. Faculty Fellow, a BP Faculty Fellow in Global Management, and a member of the 'Thinkers 50 Hall of Fame'. Additionally, he has been recognised as one of the Most Influential HR Thinkers by *HR Magazine*, a testament to his continued relevance to both scholarly and professional communities.

Mr Chairman, Professor Pfeffer's scholarship amounts to far more than a collection of theoretical insights. It is a call for fairer, healthier, and more humane workplaces. His ability to combine fearless thought leadership with a profound sense of justice has transformed the study of organisations and continues to inspire leaders and scholars around the globe.

On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I take the greatest pride in presenting to you Professor Jeffrey Pfeffer for the award of an Honorary Doctorate of Social Sciences.