

5 GENDER EQUALITY



SDG 05

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

As an institution founded on the principles of equity and social betterment, the Education University of Hong Kong strives to eliminate all forms of discrimination and empower women and girls through transformative education, pioneering research, and a supportive and inclusive campus environment.

Advancing Gender Equality through Undergraduate Education

The University offers dedicated undergraduate courses designed to promote understanding and awareness of gender equality and sexual health. These courses aim to cultivate critical thinking, challenge gender stereotypes, and foster respectful attitudes towards gender and sexuality.

The courses on Sexual Health and Human Sexuality and Language and Gender serve as essential platforms for advancing gender equality through education. The Sexual Health and Human Sexuality course seeks to deepen students' comprehension of human sexuality, sexual rights, and health, while dispelling common myths and stereotypes. Employing interactive lectures, case studies, and discussions, students are encouraged to critically examine social norms surrounding sexuality and to develop respectful communication skills.

Similarly, the Language and Gender course explores how language both reflects and sustains gender identities and inequalities. Through critical discourse analysis, group projects, and reflective writing, students gain heightened awareness of how language can either reinforce gender stereotypes or promote inclusivity.

Together, these courses enhance awareness of gender issues, nurture critical thinking, and encourage respectful dialogue, thereby contributing to a more inclusive and equitable society. To amplify their impact, integrating experiential learning opportunities and adopting interdisciplinary approaches could further deepen student engagement with gender and equality matters. Overall, these educational initiatives play a vital role in shaping informed, respectful, and socially conscious individuals prepared to challenge gender-based discrimination and champion equality across diverse settings.



Courses

11



Researchers

31



Research
Outputs

39

FWCI:1.59

818

participants



Outreach

7
events

Advancing Inclusive Language Education for Gender Equality

Dr. Pramod Sah of English Language Education at EdUHK and his team have foregrounded important insights in the thematic issue titled “**Considering Emotions as Entanglements in Applied Linguistics**”. This special issue offers a nuanced understanding of emotions in language education by conceptualising them as “entanglements”—complex, relational, and deeply socioculturally embedded phenomena. Moving beyond traditional individualistic and psychodynamic frameworks, it highlights how emotions intersect with social identities such as race and gender, power dynamics, ideologies, spatial-temporal contexts, and collective practices.

Through diverse methodologies and global perspectives, the contributions show how emotions influence experiences of belonging, agency, resistance, and inequality within multilingual and educational environments. The issue critiques earlier cognitive and dualistic paradigms and promotes a social constructionist view that regards emotions as active forces shaping power relations and social norms.

Central themes include emotional dimensions of inclusion and exclusion, power and inequality, agency and solidarity, and the transformative potential of emotions in creating inclusive, culturally responsive, and equitable language education. The entanglement framework provides valuable tools for analysing and challenging oppressive structures, advancing social justice, and reimagining educational spaces as arenas of resistance and transformation. Overall, this collection advocates for a critical and compassionate approach that recognises emotions as vital to understanding and reforming language teaching and learning.

Source: Sah, P. K., KC, M., & De Costa, P. I. (2025). Considering Emotions as Entanglements in Applied Linguistics. *International Journal of Applied Linguistics*, 35(3), 959–964

Empowering Female Sports Team

EdUHK actively champions gender equality by empowering female students to participate fully and equally in sports, recognising the importance of cultivating an inclusive environment that encourages women’s leadership and active engagement. The University has taken deliberate measures to authorise female students to form, lead, and manage sports teams, ensuring they enjoy the same opportunities, resources, and support as their male counterparts.

This commitment fosters confidence, teamwork and leadership skills, and is reflected in the outstanding success of our female athletes. The EdUHK Women’s Rugby Sevens team has demonstrated remarkable skill and determination, delivering an impressive performance at The University Sports Federation of Hong Kong (USFHK) Rugby Sevens Competition 2024-2025. Similarly, the Women’s Volleyball team achieved a significant milestone, finishing as runners-up in the USFHK Volleyball Competition.

These accomplishments exemplify the talent and competitive spirit of our students and reflect the University’s steadfast commitment to creating equal opportunities. By celebrating and nurturing women’s participation and leadership in sport, EdUHK contributes meaningfully to broader societal progress towards gender equality, reinforcing the vital role of athletics in empowering women and shaping inclusive communities.



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Celebrating Women's Sporting Spirit

The University has partnered with Tianjin University of Sport (TJUS) to host the **National Glory – Exhibition on the Spirit of the China Women's Volleyball Team**. This collaboration aims to celebrate and promote the values of perseverance, teamwork, and resilience exemplified by the esteemed volleyball team.

The exhibition, held from 17 June to 1 July 2024 on EdUHK's Tai Po campus, features artefacts such as the 1981, 2003 and 2019 Women's Volleyball World Cups, gold medals from the 1984 Los Angeles, 2004 Athens, and 2016 Rio Olympic Games, as well as match-worn kits and shoes, all provided and loaned by TJUS. The exhibition serves as an educational platform, inspiring students, staff, and the wider community by showcasing the team's exceptional achievements and the enduring spirit that fosters national pride.

In addition, the Tianjin Women's Volleyball Team—winners of the national volleyball league championship 16 times and contributors of numerous players to the China Women's Volleyball Team—played an exhibition match against the Hong Kong Women's Volleyball Team, the EdUHK women's team, and the champions of the Hong Kong Schools Jing Ying girls' volleyball tournament. The match attracted an enthusiastic response, with nearly 400 EdUHK students, staff, alumni, and members of the public attending.



Fostering an Equal and Supportive Campus Culture

EdUHK is dedicated to maintaining an equal opportunities campus where all members of our community can thrive, regardless of gender. Our policies are designed to create a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment. The University has a zero-tolerance stance on discrimination and harassment, underpinned by a robust Equal Opportunities Policy and clear procedures for handling any complaints with strict confidentiality.

To support the diverse needs of our staff and students, we have implemented family-friendly measures, including provisions for maternity and paternity leave and lactation breaks, creating a workplace that is responsive to the responsibilities of modern family life.

By prominently displaying messages that celebrate diversity and gender parity, alongside targeted media campaigns, EdUHK ensures that students, staff, and the broader community remain well informed and engaged with ongoing gender equality initiatives. This multifaceted approach not only fosters a positive and respectful campus atmosphere but also amplifies the University's message beyond its boundaries, encouraging wider societal understanding and support for gender equity.

