

**THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**  
**FACULTY OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**Research Output/Impact Prize for the Dean's Research Fund 2017-18**

**Brief Introduction of Awardee's  
Research Publication/Study and Future Research Development**

**Awardee (Dept):** Dr. Zhao Zhenzhou, Assistant Professor (SSC)

**Publication Title:** Knowledge and Power: The Interface Between Religion and Education in China

A. *Briefly introduce your research publication/study for which you have received the prize.*

Religion is becoming increasingly popular among students in postMao China, especially in the higher education arena. This growing interest in religion poses a potential challenge to the compulsory Marxist ideology taught in the school curriculum. Focusing on a group of university student believers from different religious traditions, this study explores how Chinese students negotiate their religious beliefs with the Marxism-based knowledge acquired from primary to tertiary educational levels. Three patterns are observed in the religious students' accounts: (a) grounding in religious conviction; (b) negotiation through lived experience; and (c) deconstruction of Marxist thought from an academic perspective. Drawing on Young's theoretical concept of the 'knowledge of the powerful', this study reveals an interplay between the different forms of knowledge that shape religious students' beliefs and identities in China.

B. *How you used/will use your prize and perhaps its usefulness to your research development?*

To build collaborative research with researchers in China, France and Australia on the projects related to religion, citizenship, and higher education development.

C. *Expected research outcomes/outputs/impacts arising from this prize.*

1. To share the main findings of the research publication through the seminar.
2. To develop an international collaborative research proposal.
3. To complete the article manuscript related to religion, citizenship, and higher education development.