2013 Conference on Family and Bowen Theory
Healthy Families, Healthy Society - Embracing Differences, Building Connections

21-23 November 2013

Venue: Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups Building, North Point

2013 CONFERENCE ON FAMILY AND BOWEN THEORY

DATE & TIME
21-22 November 2013 (Thur to Fri) 9:00am to 5:00pm
23, November 2013 (Sat) 9:00am to 4:00pm
(9:00am to 9:30am registration)

VENUE
Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups Building, 21 Pak Fuk Road, North Point, Hong Kong
(MTR Quarry Bay Station Exit C)

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Plenary session / Workshops Day 1 to Day 3:
Dr. Anne S. MCKNIGHT LCSW, EdD
Director, Bowen Center for the Study of the Family, Washington D.C.

Plenary session
Prof. Joyce MA, Lai-chong PhD, RSW
Professor and Chairperson, Department of Social Work, The Chinese University of Hong Kong;
Clinical Fellow and Approved Supervisor of AAMFT; Co-Clinical Director of Academy of Family Therapy (HK)

WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

DAY 1
Prof. Cecilia CHAN, Lai-wan PhD, RSW, JP
Si Yuen Professor of Health and Social Work, Head of the Department of Social Work and Social Administration of the University of Hong Kong

Mrs. Monica YAU, Ng Lai-tuen MSW, RSW
Professional Consultant, Department of Social Work, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Accredited Gestalt Therapy Practitioner
DAY 2

Dr. Amy CHOW, Yin-man  PhD, MSocSc, RSW, FT
Associate Professor, Department of Social Work and Social Administration, the University of Hong Kong;

Ms. Natalie TONG  LMFT, Reg. Psychol.
Honorary Lecturer, Department of Social Work and Social Administration, The University of Hong Kong

Mrs. Peggy CHAN, So Chan-ying  BSocSc, MEd, RSW
Director of Programme, ISS Wofoo Family Institute, International Social Service Hong Kong Branch

Dr. WONG Oi-ling  PhD, RSW, AAMFT Approved Supervisor
Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

DAY 3

Dr. CHAN Chung-ming  PhD
Registered Clinical Psychologist (HKPS), Approved Supervisor (AAMFT)

Panel Discussion:

Mr. Dennis HO, Chi-kuen
Chairman, Family Law Committee, Law Society of Hong Kong

Ms. Angelina LAI, Fung-yee  RSW, BSocSc (Soc. Wk.), MSocSc
Head of Family Service, Caritas - Hong Kong

Ms. Blanche TANG, Oi-lam
Media Veteran

Mr. Jake TANG, Chit-Ping
Training and Employment Manager, Hong Kong Rehabilitation Power

Ms. Amarantha YIP, Yun-wan
Head of Service, Hong Kong Family Welfare Society
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For further details and registration form, please visit:
http://www.isshk.org/PublishWebSite/isshk/en/contentPage40926.htm
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<td>9:30 – 12:30pm</td>
<td>9:30 – 9:45am Open ceremony</td>
<td>Dr. Anne McKnight – Families with Addiction: A Systems Perspective</td>
<td>Ms. Natalie TONG – Emotionally-Focused Therapy (EFT) for Distressed Couples</td>
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<td>9:45 – 11:00am Dr. Anne McKnight – Systems Thinking in Families &amp; Society</td>
<td>Dr. Amy Chow – Supporting Families Facing Death and Trauma</td>
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<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>11:15 am – 12 noon Q &amp; A and Media Session</td>
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<td>2:00 – 5:00pm</td>
<td>Dr. Anne McKnight – Looking up the Family tree: The Transmission of Emotional Patterns from Generation to Generation</td>
<td>Dr. Anne McKnight – Families with Addiction: A Systems Perspective</td>
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<td>Prof. Cecilia Chan – Hands-On Healing: Energy Enhancement Exercises (3E) for Patients and Family Members</td>
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<td>Mrs. Peggy Chan – Anxious Parenting and Treatment of Child-focused Families</td>
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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr. Anne S. McKnight LCSW, EdD

Director of Bowen Center for the Study of the Family, Washington D.C.

Dr. Anne McKnight has been the Director of the Bowen Center since January 1, 2011.

Dr. McKnight has studied Bowen theory since 1975 and taught and supervised trainees since she joined the faculty of the Bowen Center in 1992. Having worked in a community child and family substance abuse center for over 20 years, she developed an interest in applying Bowen theory to families with addiction and organized a family systems theory group for staff who were consulting with families with substance abusing teenagers. She planned three conferences on Bowen theory and addiction. Her publications include: “Family Systems with Alcoholism: A Case Study” in Clinical Applications of Bowen Family Systems Theory, edited by Peter Titelman; “Triangles in Families with Substance Abusing Teenagers” in Triangles: Bowen Family Systems Theory Perspectives, edited by Peter Titelman; and “The Impact of Cutoff in Families Raising Adolescents” in Emotional Cutoff: Bowen Family Systems Theory Perspectives, edited by Peter Titelman.

Dr. McKnight’s recent interests have focused on the relationship of young adults who are in the process of establishing their lives to their original families. She has explored how family anxiety, which manifests in parents’ conflict, divorce, dysfunction, or excessive focus on the young adult, can affect how free the young person is to engage his/her life challenges. She has presented her ideas through lectures and videotaped interviews with young adults and wrote an article, “The Relationship World of the Young Adult” in the Family Systems Forum, Vol. 14, No. 4.

She has presented in numerous conferences throughout the U.S., in Canada, and in Australia on a variety of topics related to family systems theory, including Death in the Family, Sibling Position, An Overview of Bowen Theory, and Epigenetics and Family Process.

Dr. McKnight has a private practice in Arlington, V.A. and at the Bowen Center in Washington, D.C.
Thursday 21 Nov 2013  9:45am – 11:00am

**Plenary Session - Systems Thinking in Families and Society**

Family systems theory, as conceptualized by Dr. Murray Bowen, describes individual behavior as profoundly affected by the bonds of family life. The natural process of a child growing up in a family occurs as a part of the interactional patterns of all the members. Individuals vary in the ability to manage themselves with their family members. Some families are fragmented, with multiple problems. Others operate with a calmer, more thoughtful assessment of their environment and choices. Dr. McKnight will outline some concepts of family systems theory that allow a better understanding of the emotional patterns that underlie family behavior. These include: the triangle, cutoff, the multigenerational transmission process, distance, conflict, projection, and a process of over/under functioning. In illustrating these concepts of family emotional process, she will also raise questions about how they might apply to society.

Thursday 21 Nov 2013  2:00pm – 5:00pm

**Looking Up the Family Tree: The Transmission of Emotional Patterns from Generation to Generation**

Family life is the product of an emotional process repeating across generations. The child born today is the product of the parents’ genetics, behavior, and emotions, as each parent is affected by the family they grew up in. In this session, Dr. McKnight will address how emotional process is transmitted through the replication of emotional patterns across generations. A clinical case will illustrate how documenting the history and emotional life of three generations of a family is useful in understanding and addressing the problems in family life in the present. The construction of a family diagram as a vehicle to record family history will be demonstrated.

Friday 22 Nov 2013  9:30am – 12:30pm / 2:00pm – 5:00pm

**Families with addiction: A Systems Perspective**

Many perspectives exist on addiction. A family systems perspective is unique in its approach to addiction as emerging from the emotional process of the family. Without blaming any member of the family, systems theory sees an individual turning to alcohol or drugs as a mechanism to manage the anxiety in the family. The use of alcohol to manage anxiety can be a coping strategy that families use across generations. A benefit of using a broader lens to think about the role of addiction in a family is that it allows
any member of the family to start working on their part of the family process. These ideas help families and professionals helping families with addiction to step back and see the larger emotional patterns of the families in which addiction plays a role.

This day will explore concepts of Bowen theory such as the importance of the family diagram, multigenerational process, triangles, reciprocity, and the mechanisms of managing anxiety such as distance, conflict, over/under functioning, and symptom development.

Saturday 23 Nov 2013 9:30am – 12:00noon / 1:00pm – 4:00pm

The Relationship World of the Young Adult

The young adult is at a life stage (20-30 years of age) where he or she faces the tasks of adulthood; separating from his/her family, gaining the education or experience to enter into employment and self sufficiency, establishing relationships which lead to a partnership later in life, and supporting themselves. In this day, Dr. McKnight will look at these questions from the point of view of Bowen family systems theory in which the young person, despite his/her efforts to gain independence, is profoundly affected by the functioning of their original family. Family anxiety, which manifests in parents’ conflict, divorce, dysfunction, or excessive focus on the young adult can affect how free the young person is to engage his/her own life challenges. While seemingly the young person has moved out and on, video segments of interviews will highlight their ties with the original family and their place in the family system. While most of the focus of the day will be on how young adults address the impact of their family on their life course, there will be discussion on how parents can manage themselves when a child leaves home. The day will include a mixture of didactic on family systems theory and the life stage of the young adult, videotaped interviews with young adults, and discussion.
Prof. Joyce MA, Lai-chong 马丽庄教授
PhD, RSW
Professor and Chairperson, Department of Social Work, The Chinese University of Hong Kong; Clinical Fellow and Approved Supervisor of AAMFT; Co-Clinical Director of Academy of Family Therapy (HK)

Prof. Joyce Ma is the Chairperson, Professor and Director of the Family and Group Practice Research Center of Department of Social Work and former Associate Dean (Student Affairs) of Faculty of Social Science (2004-2008), The Chinese University of Hong Kong; she is the registered social worker, clinical fellow and the approved supervisor of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), Co-Clinical Director, Academy of Family Therapy, Hong Kong and the Founder of the Shengang (深港) Family Treatment Center, Nanshan Hospital in Shenzhen. She obtained her B. Sc. Sc. in 1979, M. Soc. Sc. (distinction) in 1984 and Ph.D. in 1995 from the University of Hong Kong.

Prof. Ma is the former Chairperson (elected) of the Social Worker Registration Board, Hong Kong, and the former Chief Editor of the Hong Kong Journal of Social Work (January 2002 to January 2006). Her professional and research interests are on mental health with recent focus on eating disorders and childhood mental health, family therapy and family therapy research. She has published 73 journal papers at venues with significant impact and visibility internationally, regionally and locally including a book entitled “Anorexia Nervosa and Family Therapy in a Chinese Context” in 2011.

Thursday 21 Nov 2013 11:15am – 12:30pm

Plenary Session:

Family-centered care for families with a child suffering from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorders (ADHD): Sharing of our clinical experiences

Despite a rising recognition of mental health professionals worldwide to adopt a family-centered care in helping families of a child with mental health needs, insufficient effort has been made locally to actively engage the parents and pool their resources together for mutual help and mutual support. It is because our mental health service is bio-medical oriented and child-focused. In this presentation, we would like to share with the participants our current clinical research project, which aims to actively engage the parents of a child suffering from attention deficit hyperactivity disorders (ADHD)
through multiple family therapy (MFT), an intervention model that has integrated family therapy and group therapy in helping, and assesses its treatment outcome. Our experience of developing a culturally particular and socially relevant model of MFT for these families, which is adapted from the Marlborough Model in London, the UK, will be described. Challenges of implementing this project and ways of overcoming these challenges will be discussed at the end of the presentation.

Acknowledgement

The Research Grants Council in Hong Kong financially supports this research project (RGC Ref. No. CUHK 449012)
Dr. Cecilia Chan is known for her creative innovations in clinical practice. She is Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the “Tenth International Conference of Grief and Bereavement in Contemporary Societies” to be held in Hong Kong, June 2014.

Cecilia created an Integrative Body-Mind-Spirit (IBMS) Model of holistic healing by incorporating eastern philosophies and practices of Chinese medicine into her clinical practice in the areas of oncology, grief, bereavement, trauma and loss. She simplified complex Chinese qigong and taiji as well as acupuncture points and meridian energy flow pathways into single movement techniques. Her "One-Second Techniques" can be learnt easily and be widely practiced as an empowerment exercises for all. By “one-second”, it actually means that participants can learn by watching the demonstration of techniques immediately. Her holistic intervention has proven effects on psychosocial as well as physiological outcomes of salivary cortisol and telomerase.

Thursday 21 Nov 2013 2:00pm – 5:00pm

Hands-On Healing: Energy Enhancement Exercises (3E) for Patients and Family Members

Dr. Cecilia Chan received many international awards for her creative innovations in the creation of an Integrative Body-Mind-Spirit (IBMS) Model of holistic healing by incorporating eastern philosophies and practices of Chinese medicine into oncology, grief, bereavement, trauma and loss. One of the key frustrations in palliative care is that "there is nothing that can be done." Patients and family members feel helpless and a strong sense of loss of control.

Together with her team members, Dr. Chan simplify complex Chinese qigong and taiji as well as acupuncture points and meridian energy flow pathways into single movement techniques of the use of hands as patient empowerment techniques called Energy Enhancing Exercises (3E).
Her 3E exercises are also known as "One-Second Techniques" which can be learnt easily and be widely practiced as an empowerment exercises for all. By “one-second”, it actually means that participants can learn by watching the demonstration of techniques immediately. There are things that they can be doing to help themselves or their family members in their end-of-life.

Her holistic intervention has demonstrated significant effects on psychosocial as well as physiological outcomes of salivary cortisol and telomerase. In this experiential workshop session of Energy Enhancement Exercises (3E), Cecilia will be sharing with the participants on the conceptual background of these techniques, how these body and movement techniques can be applied clinically in working with people in grief and loss. With her extensive experience of working with victims of trauma and patients in end of life, these techniques can be applied to individuals, groups and community for trauma management and in palliative care. There will be experiential time for experiencing these 3E health promotion hands-on techniques that can be practiced together in the workshop.

References:


Mrs. Monica YAU, Ng Lai-tuen 邱吳麗端女士
MSW, RSW

Professional Consultant, Department of Social Work, The Chinese University of Hong Kong; Accredited Gestalt Therapy Practitioner

Mrs. Monica Yau possesses more than 20 years’ working experience in helping families with children with special needs, serving as both an administrator and a clinician at the rehabilitation field. Being the Deputy Director of the Family and Group Practice Centre and the Chairperson of the Continuing Professional Education Division of the Social Work Department, CUHK, Mrs. Yau has been providing clinical supervision for various service agencies in Hong Kong, such as the Hong Kong Cancer Fund, the Tung Wah Groups of Hospital and Saint Kung Hui. Mrs. Monica Yau was regularly invited to deliver training at different cities in Mainland China and shared her expertise on social work supervision and service management. Her research interest is specialized on helping children with family therapy, gestalt therapy and service management. Mrs. Yau is the co-author of the Chinese book 《照顧的困境突圍：成年心智障礙者及其家庭福利政策初探》, in which examines the needs of families with mentally retarded adult children.

Thursday 21 Nov 2013  2:00pm – 5:00pm

Service Strategies and Clinical Skills in Helping Families with Children with Special Needs: the Family-entered Perspective

When talking about families with children with special needs, it is not uncommon for people to think about the problems faced in taking care of a child with challenging behaviors and the frustration faced in the educational process. Their parents and siblings are very often considered as “victims” suffering from various kinds of mental distress. Are these families really so helpless in facing their difficult situation? What are the subjective experiences of these families in adjusting themselves in their community? Adopting a family-centered perspective, the helping professionals will become the partners of these families who facilitate utilization of family resources and assets to go through transitions of family life cycle.

Course objectives of the workshop include:

1. To enable participants to acquire knowledge and skills in assessing the strengths and needs of the families with children with special needs
2. To facilitate participants to recognize the differences between traditional medical
model of individual-based intervention and the family-centered practice in working with families with children with special needs

3. To equip participants with intervention skills on macro and micro levels: Strategies in mobilizing community resources to promote support to these families; and clinical intervention skills in working with family members of children with special needs

Content of the workshop is composed of 1) Key concepts of family-centered practice, 2) Clinical interventions in facilitating decision making, cooperation and involvement among the family members, 3) Interventions on the interface among various service systems and the strategies on resource mobilization, and 4) Clinical skills in helping families to identify their strengths and family assets.

Training format will be didactic lecture, case illustration, role playing and group discussion.
Dr. Amy CHOW, Yin-man 周燕雯博士
PhD, MSocSc, RSW, FT
Associate Professor, Department of Social Work and Social Administration, the University of Hong Kong

Dr. Amy Chow is a registered social worker with the specialization in bereavement counseling. She was the former Centre Director and founder of the Jessie and Thomas Tam Centre of the Society for the Promotion of Hospice Care. She was certified in Thanatology awarded by the Association of Death Education and Counseling and was awarded as the first Fellow in Thanatology in Asia. Her achievement in bereavement research is well recognized locally and internationally. She received the Association for Death Education and Counseling 2005 Cross-Cultural Award in April, 2005. In 2006, she co-edited with Prof. Cecilia Chan, her mentor, Death, Dying and Bereavement: A Hong Kong Chinese experience published by the Hong Kong University Press. In 2008, she was awarded as the CADENZA Fellow.

Friday 22 Nov 2013 9:30am – 12:30pm

Supporting Families Facing Death and Trauma

Death of a family member is devastating for the family. The dynamics and communication patterns often change after the death. When the death is sudden, the grief is further complicated by the traumatic impact. In this workshop, the theories of bereavement will be briefly outlined. In particular, the Dual Process Model and Constructivist view will be focused. Based on the theories, intervention strategies will be elaborated with exercises in practicing skills in working with bereaved family.
Ms. Natalie TONG 唐靜恩女士
LMFT, Reg. Psychol.
Honorary Lecturer, Department of Social Work and Social Administration, The University of Hong Kong

Ms. Natalie Tong is an experienced trainer who has conducted over 100 training workshops/seminars. She integrated her training in clinical psychology with Emotion-Focused Therapy and received individual supervision from Professor Leslie Greenberg and Dr. Ting Liu. She is a Registered Psychologist (Reg. Psychol.) and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) who works extensively with clients who suffer from depression, anxiety, trauma and couple distress in her private practice. She is an Honorary Lecturer at the University of Hong Kong who trains and supervises counselors and social workers in-training. She is a Clinical Member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) and an Associate Member of the American Psychological Association (APA). She is also an Approved Supervisor with the Hong Kong Professional Counselling Association (HKPCA).

Friday 22 Nov 2013 9:30am – 12:30pm

Emotion-Focused Therapy (EFT) for Distressed Couples

In a distressed relationship, powerfully negative emotions take hold of the couple and create repeating, dysfunctional interactional patterns. These emotionally fueled interactional cycles define how partners view themselves and the other partner and leave them feeling stuck and distressed in the relationship. Emotion-Focused Therapy (EFT) for couples focuses on the feelings beneath these habitual interactions and processes these feelings to create new interactions that foster a loving, secure bond between the partners.

This 3-hour course will introduce Emotion-Focused therapy for couples and will provide therapists with the “lens” to understand and work with these intense emotions. EFT interventions and the stages of Emotion-Focused therapy will be illustrated.
Mrs. Peggy CHAN, So Chan-ying  陳蘇陳英女士
BSoSc, MEd, RSW
Director of Programme, ISS Wofoo Family Institute, International Social Service Hong Kong Branch

Mrs. Peggy Chan has over 20 years of experience counselling individuals, couples and families. She has completed 5 years of the Postgraduate Program in Bowen Family Systems Theory and Its Applications at the Bowen Center for the Study of the Family, Washington, DC, U.S.A. Prior to that, she was also trained in Family Systems Therapy at Pacific Coast Family Therapy Training Association in Vancouver, Canada. She is a frequent speaker on the Bowen family systems theory and its applications in Hong Kong. She is committed to promoting the systemic way of seeing relationships and self-management in her clinical work and daily life. Her current interest is in applying the Bowen theory to working with child-focused families.

Mrs. Chan is the Honorary Assistant Professor of University of Hong Kong, training and supervising counselors-in-training. She also conducts training and supervision in marriage and family therapy for social service agencies, and hospitals in Hong Kong. She is the Approved Supervisor of the Hong Kong Professional Counselling Association (HKPCA).

Friday 22 Nov 2013  2:00pm – 5:00pm
Anxious Parenting and Treatment of Child-focused families: Understanding the Family Projection Process and Working towards the Parent’s Emotional Self-regulation

There is the Chinese saying, 「養兒一百歲 長憂九十九」, describing the pervasiveness of parental anxiety for our children.

This workshop will alert us to the subtle, yet damaging impact of parental anxiety on our children. It will discuss the treatment of such families whereby there is intense focus on the child by the adults around him/her.

With illustration of a case (of a young boy having provocative and destructive behaviours), this presentation will examine the prevalent emotional processes in such families, in particular, triangles and the family projection process. It will highlight the work of engaging the parental sub-system – helping the parents to identify their reactivity and work towards their own emotional self-regulation. It will also examine
the challenges of working on the different triangles (e.g. between the couple and wife’s mother-in-law, the couple and the child) amid expectations of filial piety, and respect for the elder in the family. The presentation will also explore the effect of taking a broad perspective, keeping the focus off the child, and encouraging the parents’ self-focus in the course of treatment. Training format will involve lecture, discussion, and video presentation.
Dr. WONG Oi-ling 王愛玲博士
PhD, RSW, AAMFT Approved Supervisor
Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Dr. Wong Oi-ling is an AAMFT (American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy) Approved Supervisor. Her expertise is primarily in the area of family therapy, clinical supervision, childhood obesity, children and adolescent family, and mental health. Dr. Wong has been conducting training and delivering supervision courses in the field of marriage and family therapy for universities, hospitals, and social work agencies since 2000 in Beijing, Taiyuan, Nanjing, Hangzhou, Shenzhen, Taiwan, Macau and Hong Kong. Dr. Wong is a very experienced family clinician, and she promotes a multidisciplinary approach in clinical practice. She is currently involved in research projects with families living with parental mental illness and dementia. Her recent Chinese publication is 《夾縫中的孩子》.

Friday 22 Nov 2013 2:00pm-5:00pm

Utilization of Family Strengths and Resilience: Integrative Family and Systems Treatment (I-FAST) with Parental Mental Illness

The literature has focused on family dysfunctions as a result of mental illness: mental illness negatively affects parental competence, and thus the child is at risk due to inadequate parenting. However, it was found that parents with mental illness take great pride in being a parent, and functioning well in the parental role is crucial to their rehabilitation. The question is: what kind of support is needed to help parents with mental illness function to their fullest as parents, despite their disabilities?

Objectives of this workshop include:
1. To acquire knowledge and skills in implementing I-FAST with children, parents with mental illness, and the families; and
2. To develop skills for intra- and inter-agency collaboration in working with parents with mental illness.

The content of the workshop is composed of 1) Systemic and family-oriented approach, 2) Key treatment components to work with families with parental illness, 3) Family strengths and resilience, and 4) Inter-agency collaboration.

Training format will be didactic lecture, videotaped presentation and also group discussion.
Dr. CHAN Chung-ming  陳忠明博士  PhD

Registered Clinical Psychologist (HKPS), Approved Supervisor (AAMFT)

Dr. CHAN Chung-ming is a clinical psychologist and a family therapist. He works as the Senior Clinical Psychologist with the Social Welfare Department, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. He has over ten years' working experience with intimate partner violence cases and has since 2002 participated in the development of intervention groups for men and women of these cases. His doctoral research “The Many Faces of a Male Batterer – A Hong Kong Experience” was an indigenous study on the interplay of various factors in the men’s use of violence in an intimate relationship. He is also an Approved Supervisor of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy and has been involved in training and supervising marriage and family therapy for many years.

Saturday 23 Nov 2013  1:00pm – 4:00pm

Men, Violence, and Therapy - A Reflection

Hong Kong has since mid-1990s increasingly awakened to the problem of intimate partner violence in which it is mostly the men who resort to use of violence in intimate relationships. These men have been labeled as abusers who are chauvinistic, denying or minimizing their violence, evasive about their problems, and refusing to receive counseling. In this seminar, the speaker will use case examples, literature, as well as his personal experience to present his reflection first on the intricate relationship between men's gender identity, affective relationship and use of violence and then on the direction of counseling with men.
PANEL DISCUSSION

Family in the Larger Systems: Towards Policies that Strengthen Families

How is the mutual fit of the families and the larger systems in Hong Kong? Are the larger systems of the Hong Kong society responsive to the needs of the families and strengthening their functioning? Are the families open and adaptive to the changes undergoing in the larger systems?

The panelists will articulate the predominant challenges and needs faced by many families of Hong Kong from different perspectives, identify gaps in existing services and policies, and explore needed policy initiatives.

Panelists:

Mr. Dennis HO, Chi-kuen  何志權先生
Chairman, Family Law Committee, Law Society of Hong Kong

Dennis Ho is a solicitor, a mediator and a part time lecturer. He has practised Family Laws for over 20 years. He also chaired the Domestic Violence Subcommittee and Enforcement of Maintenance Subcommittee. He is a member of the Working Group on Children Welfare and Ancillary Relief in Family Proceedings and the Family Court Users’ Committee of the Judiciary. He has given lectures and talks on Family Laws for over 10 years to social workers, lawyers and students. He teaches as a part time lecturer on Family Laws for the Juris Doctorates in the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is an adjunct professor to the Hong Kong Shu Yan University. He is also one of the first groups of trained practitioners for Collaborative Practice in Hong Kong, another Alternative Dispute Resolution to resolve family disputes.
Ms. Angelina LAI, Fung-yee 黎鳳儀女士
RSW, BSocSc (Soc. Wk.), MSocSc
Head of Family Service, Caritas - Hong Kong

More than thirty years of experience working with families convinced me that families are living cells making up the body of society. While difficulties and malfunctions in individual family affect social stability, socio-political-economic changes also impose pressure on families. It is therefore important to take heed of both the macro environment as well as internal resilience in supporting families.

Ms. Blanche TANG, Oi-lam 鄧藹霖女士
Media Veteran

Ms. Blanche Tang is a media veteran. She studied psychology and graduated with a BA degree from Wilfrid Laurier University in Canada. Ms. Tang has been the presenter of parenting program THE FAMILY AFFAIRS of RTHK for 12 years. She is also a columnist of HK Economic Times, an author of 8 parenting books, and a main speaker in more than 500 parenting seminars. Ms. Tang is Member of the QEF Dissemination and Promotion Sub-committee (DPS), and Member of the Sub-committee of Communication Strategy on Free Kindergarten Education. She is a mother of two boys aged 24 and 16. Her elder son graduated from HKU with first honors and obtained a master degree from UCL. Her younger son has just scored 9A (5A*) from GCSE.
Mr. Jake TANG, Chit-Ping  鄧哲平先生

Training and Employment Manager, Hong Kong Rehabilitation Power

Tang Chit Ping, Jake is a registered social work. He got his Master Degree in Social Work in Hong Kong University since 1996. He has got experience in social work setting for over 20 years. He has solid experience in youth leadership, peer counseling, corporate training and vocational rehabilitation. Jake has also been a volunteer for over 30 years. He is the senior volunteer of Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association and Social Service Centre and has helped to organize various projects on serving the elderly, the new immigrants and the children living in the deprived areas. Jake is also a seasoned member of Toastmasters International of Hong Kong. He has been the division governor of the organization and looked after the development of 16 Toastmasters Clubs in Hong Kong. Through serving in the Toastmasters, Jake has gained much experience in public speaking and to develop inspiring speeches to different audience. Although Jake is a disabled person, he has optimistic personality; his passion and energetic style always inject positive energy to the others. Whenever people are in a vulnerable situation, Jake can cheer them up to take the challenge. Jake is now the Training and Employment Manager of Hong Kong Rehabilitation Power, his main duties are to train up the disabled to find a job in the open market and to identify job opportunities in the society for the disabled. Through job matching and linking up with different parties, Jake intends to promote social integration and to build up a harmonious society for all people.

Ms. Amarantha YIP, Yun-wan  葉潤雲女士

Head of Service, Hong Kong Family Welfare Society

Ms. Amarantha YIP, Yun-wan is the Head of Service of the Hong Kong Family Welfare Society overseeing the Family Mediation and Divorce Services. She is active in the development of Family Mediation in Hong Kong. She has served in the Judiciary’s Steering Committee on Family Mediation to pilot and steer the development of this service in 1999-2012 and the chairperson of the Family Mediation Committee of the Hong Kong Mediation Council in 2003-2005. She is currently a member of the Steering Committee on Mediation
chaired by the Secretary for Justice and Mediation Accreditation Committee of Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited. She has strong passion to promote the well being of divorce families and advocate for co-parenting for the best interest of children.