

## Project Title: **Cosmopolitanism and Young People in Hong Kong**

### Project Summary:

In recent years cosmopolitanism seems to be embraced strongly by young people in Western countries who are committed to change the world through various forms of social activism ranging from protests, rallies to changing their lifestyle, behaviours, values and dispositions in pursuit of better quality of life, especially in terms of social justice, diversity, democracy, self-determination and reflexion. Initially the research found that while young people in Hong Kong seemed to subscribe to ideals of cosmopolitanism, yet few would commit themselves in putting their beliefs in action, especially when they were more concerned with paying off their study loans and getting employment as soon as possible. Yet since the completion of this research and sparkled by the incident of forced relocation of local residents of Tsoi Yuen Tsuen, it was evident that young people were not as non-committed to cosmopolitanism as many began to participate actively in rallies and staged “ascetic walks” to protest the government’s decision to construct the high-speed rail at the expense of the village residents. Further investigations eventually found that those who ultimately decided to commit themselves to social activism did so because they had developed a better sense of “reality” and empathy towards the disadvantaged and were inspired by the changing socio-political and socio-economic landscapes in Hong Kong.