

**Project Title: Adolescent Executive Function and Empathy: A Bio-ecological Analysis**

**Project Summary:**

This large-scale research of one year duration aims to build a foundation for a series of child and adolescent development and learning studies in Beijing and Hong Kong for the coming three years using a platform approach involving multiple collaborators. In recent years, ecological perspective of adolescent cognitive functioning and empathy development has made significant strides in the international literature. This theoretical orientation is also a much preferred framework for bridging directly to high-level government policy initiatives, particularly in the areas of inter-generational poverty alleviation / prevention and adolescent risk-taking behavior.

During this year, we succeeded in:

1. Submitting a proposal titled “A longitudinal study of the constructs and development of mentoring relationship quality (MRQ) and the interaction with family and peer relationship in mentees to the GRF of RGC and another proposal titled “Turning resources into assets – A theory of dynamic interplay of family-community-government resources in the prevention of inter-generational poverty” to the PPR of RGC. Unfortunately, we did not succeed in getting any funding from both submissions.
2. Signing a MOU between PolyU-Peking U-Griffith U on this research agenda.
3. Attracting program funding from Hong Kong Youth Foundation on a multi-year mentoring modeling after the PolyU developed Intensive Community Mentoring (ICM) and attention and endorsement of the State Council’s Leading Group on Poverty Alleviation and Development of the China Central government and participation of both the National and Beijing Center for Disease Control and Prevention etc.
4. Securing a HK\$ 3.5 million research consultancy contract from the HKSAR government Labor and Welfare Bureau’s on the HK\$300 million Child Development Fund Pioneer Projects which mentoring is one of the three core components.
5. Presenting two papers in a National Conference on mobile children in Beijing based on this first year of data collection.