



Symposium one

From Virtual Reality to Reality: Using Virtual Offender to Supplement Social Work Education

Dr. Jessica C.M. Li, *Associate Professor*

Abstract

Although considerable literature based upon the context of Western societies has concluded that the use of virtual reality (VR) technology can facilitate students' learning, the applicability of this learning approach in nurturing social work students in the Chinese context remains uncertain. This pilot study empirically tests the effectiveness of VR technology in enhancing social work students' perceived creativity and competence in working with offenders. Survey data that capture the responses of 41 social work students collected in the pre- and post-test periods indicate a positive change in the self-perceived confidence of handling offenders following the VR training session. The qualitative data generated from focus groups echo the survey findings and provide insights for using VR technology in social work education. Issues and implications for innovative education in social work profession are discussed.

Biography

Dr. Jessica Li, Associate professor of the Department of Applied Social Sciences, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, has research interests such as "social work practice with offenders", "social work value and ethics education", and "theft, fraud and deception". Before joining to the academic field, she was a social worker in the field of young offender rehabilitation in Hong Kong for about 15 years. Her recently completed projects include two studies funded by the Research Grants Council of Hong Kong (RGC) on "preventing financial crimes against older people" and "community responses to compensated dating among juvenile girls". Besides, she has been involved as a co-investigator in on big data and crime geography funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC).

March 28, 2019 (Thurs) 2:30pm
GH405 HK PolyU

2:30 - 2:45 *Reception & Welcome*
2:45 - 3:45 *Symposium 1 (Presentation, Q&A)*
3:45 - 4:00 *Break*
4:00 - 5:00 *Symposium 2 (Presentation, Q&A)*



Symposium two

Migration, Work and Family Among Migrant Factory Workers in China and Vietnam

Dr. Kaxton Y. Siu, *Assistant Professor*

Abstract

Through on-site interviewing, a comparative study has been carried out of migrant factory workers in China's Guangdong province and in Ho Chi Minh City and the Hanoi region in Vietnam. Even though China and Vietnam possess similar legacies of socialist transformation and have had similar household registration systems, there exist marked differences in work migration patterns, export-industry wages and work hours, and migrant-worker family situations in Guangdong and Ho Chi Minh City. For instance, migrant families in Ho Chi Minh City largely stay intact and tend to settle there permanently, while married migrant workers in Guangdong normally need to split up their families when their children are of school age, and they remain trapped in circular rural-urban migration. A main reason involves access to education – contrary to the official policies in each country. The paper also explains why a different situation prevails among workers in much of the export industry in the Hanoi region and inland China, in terms of residential patterns, family lives, and children's educational opportunities.

Biography

Dr. Kaxton Siu is an assistant professor at the Department of Applied Social Sciences at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. His research concentrates on labor, and migration, and youth in East and Southeast Asia, particularly China, Vietnam, Japan and Hong Kong. His work has been published in *Politics and Society*, *The China Journal*, *Labor History*, *Critical Asian Studies*, *Youth and Society*, *Journal of Youth Studies*, *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, and *British Journal of Social Work*. His current research projects involve: "Exit, Voice, and the Family/Work Dynamics of Married Migrant Factory Workers in China and Vietnam" and "Industrial Trainees from China and Vietnam in Japan: An Entry Point into the Key Issues of International Labor Migration and Skill Transfer".

Convener

Dr. Chen Juan, *Associate Head and Associate Professor, APSS*

Register to reserve a spot

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