



中國及全球發展網絡
China and Global Development Network
Department of Applied Social Sciences
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University



Benjamin Hok Bun KU - Bio

Hok Bun KU obtained his PhD from the department of anthropology and sociology at SOAS, University of London. He is associate professor, panel chair of sociology, program leader of Doctor in Social Work in the Department of Applied Social Sciences at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He is also honorary professor at the China Youth University for Political Sciences. He is the Co-Director of the Peking U-PolyU Social Work Research Center and Director of China and Global Development Network. He is chief editor of China Journal of Social Work and associate editor of Action Research. He was Fulbright Scholar at Washington University in St. Louis in 2007 and Senior Research Fellow at Durham University in UK. He has been an honorable professor at the Minzu University of China, Yunnan University, Sun Yat-sen University in China, and Shandong Youth University for Political Sciences. He has also been visiting scholar at the Central China Agriculture University and Taiwan National Central University, York University in Toronto.

Dr Ku strongly engages in practice and action research in China. He endeavors to advocate the participatory research methodology. With more than fifteen years of experience, involving in China's rural community development, he has been writing extensively on topics related to rural development, cultural politics, participatory design, social exclusion and marginality, and social work education.

Presentation Summary

In recent years, practice/action research has gradually accepted by social work educators and practitioners in the world. Some of them have tried to integrate practice/action research into social work education and practice. However, many people only learn the form, but not seriously uphold the spirit of practice/action research and understand its mission of knowledge building for informing practice. Therefore, this presentation first introduces the nature of social work research and the key elements of practice research and then use a participatory action research (PAR) project of rural social work as example to demonstrate how researchers collaborate with frontline practitioners and local villagers to co-create knowledge in pursuit of practical solution to problems of rural development in post-reform China. Finally, the presentation will conclude with a theory of rural-urban alliance which has been generated in the PAR process.



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Herman LO - Bio

Dr Herman Lo is an Associate Professor of the Department of Applied Social Sciences at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He is a Registered Social Worker, the Associate Fellow and Approved Supervisor from the Hong Kong Professional Counselling Association. He is a certified teacher of Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction at the Mindfulness Center of the Brown University. With his solid practice in family social work and mindfulness-based programme, he develops his expert research area in mindful parenting and caregiving, and practice research. He has received appointments in editorial positions of world leading academic journals including *Frontiers in Psychology*, and *China Journal of Social Work*.

Presentation Summary

Dr Lo shall review four practice research studies that aim to investigate the outcomes of social care programmes. Special attention is given to the process where the concerns of social work practitioners and stakeholders, including academic supervisors, agency administrators, funders and policy makers involved in the dialogues.