

The University of Hong Kong
Department of Psychology

Departmental Seminar

***Is social support always beneficial?
The effect of domain-specific social support among
Chinese employees***

Date: November 26, 2012 (Monday)
Time: 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Venue: Room 813, 8/F, The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU
Speaker: Ms. Jasmine Hin Man Chio
Ph.D Candidate
Department of Psychology
The University of Hong Kong

Social support is commonly regarded as a valuable coping resource that can alleviate job stress. However, some studies showed that it may not be beneficial at all times. In an attempt to understand the role of social support in the work context, two studies were conducted. Study 1 attempted to test the contextual variability of social support by comparing two domain specific types of support, namely coworker support and family support. Study 2 further tested the impact of relationship closeness on social support. The findings from the current research challenge the view that social support is favorable at all times. In particular, results showed that receiving social support in a right context, or social support from significant others will be beneficial to employees' psychological well-being, whereas social support from non-significant others in a misfit context may be hazardous.