

The University of Hong Kong
Department of Psychology

Departmental Seminar

Boredom in School Settings

Date: February 28, 2014 (Friday)
Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Venue: Room 8.13, 8/F The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus,
HKU
Speaker: Ms. Tze Man Chung Virginia
University of Alberta

Students' learning motivation and emotions have long been a major focus in educational research. Specifically, a negative emotion—boredom—has been shown to be commonly experienced by students in school settings. From a theoretical perspective, academic boredom is a negative and deactivating emotion which occurs when students perceive a lack of control over academic activities that are either far beyond or below their capabilities, and/or when they perceive that there is no value in their learning tasks (Pekrun 2006). In this talk, I will discuss the multidimensional nature of academic boredom as well as the antecedents and consequences of being bored. Specifically, I will present eight recently identified antecedents of academic boredom (e.g., being over-challenged and being bored by an unchanging routine) in mandatory schooling system and explain the usefulness of the same eight antecedents at post-secondary level. I will include a discussion about the trajectory of academic boredom and the pattern of engagement in learning over time, highlighting the importance of investigating the concurrent relationships. I will conclude this talk by discussing implications of findings to school psychology practice as well as future directions for this area of research.