

The University of Hong Kong  
Department of Psychology

*Departmental Seminar*

***Culture and How It Shapes and Protects against Mental  
Illness Stigma: Empirical Illustrations from Chinese Groups***

Date: March 21, 2014 (Friday)  
Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Venue: Social Sciences Chamber, 11/F, The Jockey Club Tower,  
Centennial Campus, HKU  
Speaker: Dr. Lawrence H. Yang  
Associate Professor  
Mailman School of Public Health  
Columbia University

Mental illness stigma is known to vary by culture, but there have been few theoretical formulations of how culture shapes how stigma is experienced across cultures. Dr. Yang will present a new theoretical framework of 'what matters most', or the capacities that define what it means to be a full-fledged 'person' in cultural groups, and how this novel framework facilitates identification and prediction of stigma's cultural effects. He will illustrate this theoretical framework with 3 studies: 1) qualitative study of 50 Chinese immigrants with psychosis; 2) national vignette study with 56 Chinese immigrants and 589 European Americans; and 3) experimental memory paradigm with 48 Chinese American and 37 European American college students. These studies provide new evidence that 'threat to lineage' constitutes a threat to 'what matters most' among Chinese groups that exacerbates stigma in this population. These findings have important implications for culture-specific measurement and anti-stigma interventions in Chinese groups.