

The University of Hong Kong
Department of Psychology

Departmental Seminar

***Calling and Vocation in Career Development: Understanding,
Assessing, and Applying the Constructs***

Date: September 24, 2015 (Thursday)
Time: 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Venue: Room 813, 8/F, The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU
Speaker: Professor Bryan Dik
Colorado State University
USA

Abstract

The notion that work can be approached as a calling -- a transcendent summons to purposeful work driven by prosocial motives -- has a long history in the West, but a short past within psychology and allied fields. The concept of vocation is closely related, yet distinct. This seminar introduces the constructs, presents challenges in defining them, explores their cross-cultural validity, describes efforts to measure them, and reviews accumulated evidence demonstrating their linkages to career development and general well-being variables. Future directions for this area of research will be discussed, including exploring a possible “dark side” of calling and vocation and developing applications that facilitate development of the construct in beneficial ways.

About the Speaker

Bryan Dik, PhD, is associate professor of psychology at Colorado State University and cofounder and chief science officer of [jobZology](#). His research targets calling, meaningful work, religion and workplace spirituality, vocational interests, and career development interventions. He has served on the editorial boards of seven research journals, including *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, *Journal of Vocational Behavior*, and *Journal of Career Assessment*. He is recipient of the 2010 Early Career Professional Award from the Society for Vocational Psychology, is co-author of *Make Your Job a Calling*, and is coeditor of two other books: *Psychology of Religion and Workplace Spirituality* and *Purpose and Meaning in the Workplace*.