

Departmental Seminar

Predictors and Outcomes of a Sense of Purpose in Life: A Longitudinal Study in Hong Kong and Indonesia

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | March 26, 2018 (Monday)

Rm 813, 8/F, The Jockey Club Tower | Centennial Campus | The University of Hong Kong



Ms. Livia Yuliawati

Ph.D. Candidate

Department of Psychology

The University of Hong Kong

Abstract

Although having a purpose in life essentially has positive outcomes among emerging adults, only some of them eventually find their purpose. Individuals who scored low in purpose were found to live in collectivist countries. Moreover, individuals scored high in purpose were found to live in less affluent but more religious countries. Few longitudinal studies have investigated the predictors and outcomes of purpose in life, especially in non-Western cultures. The current study aimed to examine the presence of and search for purpose in life among emerging adults in Hong Kong and Indonesia, with calling in career and Christian calling as predictors and meaningfulness and life satisfaction as outcomes. Since the current conceptualization and scales focus on calling in career, Study 1 aimed to identify important themes in Christian calling through interviews. Based on these themes, an item pool was created to develop a new scale, namely, Calling Scale for Christians (CSC) in Indonesian and Chinese versions. In Study 2, factor analyses showed that the Indonesian and Chinese versions of CSC have two factors, namely, devotion and ignorance of God's calling. Study 3 found that the Indonesian and Chinese purpose scale has good psychometric properties. Using a cross-sectional dataset in Study 4, calling in career and Christian calling were positively linked to presence of purpose, which in turn predicted well-being. Study 5, which used autoregressive cross-lagged analyses, revealed that presence of purpose predicted life satisfaction in the Hong Kong sample but calling in career in the Indonesian sample. The different outcomes of purpose in life between Hong Kong and Indonesian emerging adults showed that purpose could serve as an antecedent both of personal agency in career as well as religious domains and of well-being. Among Christian Indonesians, presence of purpose and meaningfulness were prospectively linked to devotion to Christian calling, which could imply a mutual link between religion and purpose.

~All are Welcome~

Enquiry: singhang@hku.hk | Dr. S.H. Cheung