Brown Bag Lunchtime Seminar

(Theme: Social and Health Psychology)

Political differences and familial relationships: online and offline consequences

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. | October 8, 2021 (Friday)
Rm 813, 8/F, The Jockey Club Tower | Centennial Campus | The University of Hong Kong

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Abstract

Two kinds of social incongruity in family and social unrest on wellbeing and radicalization are yet to be well-investigated: (i) individuals’ differences in moral foundations, and (ii) different degree of political stance, which beyond a bipolar classification of political polarity (e.g., liberals vs. conservatives). Moreover, it is essential to investigate coherent online and offline impacts and interactions in individuals. Current research aims to reveal whether people have different profiles of moral foundations and political stance will have impact on familial consequences and political radicalization.

We conduct two ongoing studies about recent social unrest in Hong Kong. Study 1 uses a cross-sectional survey and a 14-day diary to collect self-reported data on political stance, moral foundation, familial functioning and communications, acceptance of radical and non-radical protest behaviors, and mental health symptoms. Study 2 uses text mining and machine learning models to quantify 6 months (Jun to Nov 2019) user-generated comments on online forums (LIHKG and Discuss.com.hk), to investigate online discussions of political stance and radicalization (dehumanization and violence). In addition, latent profiles of moral foundation and political stance have been investigated.

Self-report data in Study 1 (survey: n = 542; diary study: n = 151) is examined by GLM and GEE models. Findings reveal i. political differences between family members and moral foundations of individuals (e.g., fairness) may have impact on familial relationships. ii. Familial dysfunction may worsen mental health symptoms. iii. Political neutral and pro-protest individuals may be more likely to accept radical and non-radical protest behaviors than pro-government individuals.

Social media data in Study 2 (n = over 30 million) is examined by GEE models. Findings suggest a positive association between dehumanization and acceptance of violence. Political neutral and politically polarized individuals may be more likely to express radicalization than other individuals.

We reveal similar online and offline findings under social unrest, which suggest alternative views of familial consequences and possibilities of radicalization in political neutral individuals. Individual differences in political stance, moral worldview, and social norms under these contexts are discussed.

About the speakers

Calvin Ka Yu LAM
Calvin is a third year PhD student at the Department of Psychology, HKU, working with Dr. Christian Chan. In one of his research interests, he studies how people interact online and offline in mental health and social contexts, using text mining and machine learning techniques. Prior to joining HKU, he studied mental disorders in Taiwan and consumer psychology in Hong Kong.

Branda Yee Man YU
Branda is a second year PhD student at the Department of Psychology, HKU, working with Dr. Christian Chan. Prior to joining HKU, she studied clinical interventions on insomnia, and its correlates. In another track, she is interested in morality as well as the interaction between cognitions, behaviors, and mental health consequences in familial contexts.

Zoom (For participants who couldn’t attend the Seminar in person)
https://hku.zoom.us/j/3951550048?pwd=SnccL3RYakEvEucU1pL29vdDJEdlEwdrz09
Meeting ID: 395 155 0048 │Password: psyec

~All are Welcome~

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