Departmental Seminar (Via Zoom)

Word Use and Suicide:
Computerized Text Analysis of Social Media Posts

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | January 21, 2022 (Friday)

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Abstract
Early identification and intervention are imperative for suicide prevention. However, at-risk people often do not seek professional help. There is increasing evidence that the Internet and social media provide clues of people’s emotional distress and suicide ideation. Some people leave messages showing emotional distress or even suicide notes on the Internet. Identifying at-risk people and examining their posts on the Internet appear to be a novel approach to suicide prevention, but the process is very time-consuming and ineffective if conducted manually using standard search engines. A tool to automatically assess suicide risk in natural settings can increase the opportunity for early identification. My research, therefore, aims to explore whether computerized text analysis could be utilized to assess one’s suicide risk in social media. The application of computerized text analysis in other areas of mental health will also be discussed.

About the Speaker
Dr. Li is a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is specialized in Digital Mental Health development. Before joining CUHK, Dr. Li worked as a Software Engineer of natural language processing in R&D companies. He earned his B.Eng. (Computer Science) in 2010, M.Sc. (Computer Science) in 2011, and Ph.D. (Youth Studies) in 2015 at the University of Hong Kong. He then obtained his M.A. (Language Studies) in 2021 at the City University of Hong Kong. He completed a research post-doctoral fellowship in pediatric rehabilitation at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. His research interests lie in digital mental health interventions, natural language processing, and computerized handwriting assessment. He received the INFORMS ISS Design Science Award 2020. He has published a total of 36 peer-reviewed articles to date.

Zoom Meeting
https://hku.zoom.us/j/3951550048?pwd=SncvL3RYakEycUtpL29vdDJEdlEwdz09
Meeting ID: 395 155 0048 | Password: psyc

~All are Welcome~

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