



Department of Psychology
The University of Hong Kong
香港大學心理學系

Jan
19
2026

Departmental Seminar

Reimagining School-Wide Social and Emotional Learning: Evidence, Innovation, and Developmentally Responsive Systems



Dr. YANG Chunyan

Associate Professor
College of Education
University of Maryland, College Park

6:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.

The Social Sciences Chamber,
11/F, The Jockey Club Tower,
Centennial Campus
The University of Hong Kong

Abstract

This talk explores the role of school-wide social and emotional learning (SEL) practices in bullying and cyberbullying prevention, teacher well-being, and the promotion of student engagement. Drawing on survey and intervention research, I examine how school-wide SEL practices are linked to reduced victimization, higher levels of student engagement, and stronger teacher well-being. I then highlight innovative school-wide SEL approaches across developmental stages, sharing implementation experiences and reflective insights from digital SEL initiatives and the *Co-Learn Code and Mind* program, which integrates SEL with robotics, youth voice, and AI literacy. The talk also introduces exploratory efforts in high school contexts to conceptualize SEL as a practice that supports students' social mobility, career readiness, and leadership development, as well as their preparation for future family and caregiving roles. Together, these examples illustrate how school-wide SEL can be advanced as developmentally responsive, system-level interventions that bridge research, innovation, and practice.

About the Speaker

Dr. Yang received her Ph.D. in Education with a specialization in School Psychology from the University of Delaware and previously served as faculty at UC Santa Barbara and UC Berkeley. Her research examines how students, educators, and school communities interact with their ecological contexts to build resilience in the face of risks such as bullying, teacher-targeted violence, mental health challenges, and educational inequalities. Her work addresses three key questions: (1) how to assess and mitigate risks for vulnerable individuals and groups; (2) how to leverage protective factors in school and community interventions; and (3) how socio-cultural and demographic diversity shapes risk and resilience. Grounded in a socio-ecological framework, she examines multilevel influences - such as school climate, social-emotional learning, and cultural norms - on development and organizational outcomes, using cross-cultural comparisons to identify universal and culture-specific patterns.

Zoom Meeting (For participants who couldn't attend the Seminar in person)

<https://hku.zoom.us/j/92228192454?pwd=on7xGPEtTtiYCQtTmAlq9fonKuVdgn.1>

Meeting ID: 922 2819 2454 | Password: 013984

~ All are Welcome ~

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