



Department of Psychology

The University of Hong Kong

香港大學心理學系

May

29

2026

Departmental Seminar

Solution Focused Counseling for School Practitioners



Prof. Michael R. Hass

Professor Emeritus

Attallah College of Educational Studies

Chapman University

6:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.

Social Sciences Chamber

11/F, The Jockey Club Tower

Centennial Campus

The University of Hong Kong

Abstract

Common Factor research shows that successful counseling is driven less by any single theory and more by elements shared across approaches: the student's strengths and challenges, a strong working alliance, hope/positive expectancy, and methods that fit the student, family, culture, and school context. Drawing from Solution-Focused Brief Therapy and related approaches, participants will be introduced to a collaborative, not-knowing stance and four core skills: listening for what's already working, co-constructing a clear future focus, activating resources (strengths, exceptions, supports), and encouraging small, feasible next steps. Emphasis is on using these strategies in everyday moments—hallways, drop-ins, and scheduled sessions - to build hope, strengthen alliance, and help students take meaningful action toward preferred futures.

About the Speaker

Michael Hass is Professor Emeritus in the Counseling and School Psychology Program at Chapman University. Prof. Hass also holds a volunteer appointment as a Visiting Professor at Vietnam National University, University of Education, Hanoi, Vietnam. His interests include school mental health, strength-based approaches to counseling, social and emotional assessment, and report writing. Prof. Hass is a co-author of *Writing Useful, Accessible, and Legally Defensible Psychoeducational Reports* and *Student Mental Health in the Classroom: Essentials for Teachers*, and author of *Interviewing for Assessment*. In 2016, he earned the California Association of School Psychologists' Sandra Goff Memorial Award for lifetime achievement for his contributions to School Psychology in California and the nation. He is currently the Co-Chair of the ISPA Accreditation Committee.

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

<https://hku.zoom.us/j/95217869147?pwd=wV3RLeImQBd51VmdEQVnc4x3r0xI4G.1>

Meeting ID: 952 1786 9147 | Password: 716226

~ All are Welcome ~

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