

Multiculturalism in Action Project 2017-18

ICONIC Mums Program

Multiculturalism in Action Project

The Multiculturalism in Action Project (MIA) was launched in 2013, aiming at involving different ethnic origins in Hong Kong to make a change together. We believe that cultural knowledge and sensibility are the basis to ending multiple marginalization of ethnic communities. We value: 1) partnership among different ethnic communities; 2) mutual empowerment through intercultural experiences; and 3) sustainability of intercultural education over time.

MIA turns academic research into knowledge accessible to the public. Workshops on Indian, Nepali, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Sri Lankan cultures were organized between 2013 and 2016, with 70 individuals receiving training as Cultural Trainers, and over 3,000 students and teachers attended our multimedia school presentations. In 2016 the community outreach program FUN with Interculturalism was launched. It has trained over 40 volunteers and reached over 10,000 members of the public through a bilingual Exhibition and a South Asian Sports Program. Please visit our website (<http://arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~ant/knowledge-transfer/multiculturalism-in-action/index.html>) to view project publications, resources for classroom and community activities, and especially our documentary *Intercultural Hong Kong Series: Feeling South Asian*.

Our newest project, **ICONIC Mums**, taps the forgotten talents of women homemakers of different ethnic origins, and together turn these important cultural resources into driving forces of long term social innovation. **ICONIC** stands for *InterCultural*, *ON* target, and *Informed*. We are *Changemakers*!

Background

Hong Kong is a multicultural society, but cultural literacy and sensibility are low, due to a lack of intercultural education and a lack of positive intercultural experience in everyday life. Cultural literacy is essential in today's global world, and is a key index of cosmopolitanism. The large body of Gender and Development Studies has shown that social development benefits most from the development of women. The education of women has a direct and positive impact on children's literacy rate, better household relations, and upward social mobility for the family. Indeed, women are important agents of change on the levels of family, neighborhood, and society in general.

Program structure

ICONIC Mums is a two-tier program in intercultural education. In the first tier, participants take part in six training workshops that aim at enhancing multicultural knowledge, individual development, and mutual empowerment. In the second tier, they form small mix-ethnic groups and use their newfound knowledge to plan and implement community-based projects, which will further disseminate appreciation of cultural diversity and will inspire a new round of social innovation among different ethnic communities in Hong Kong.

Program Team

Prof. Siumi Maria Tam, Director of MIA Project (Anthropology Department, CUHK)

Prof. Raees Begum Baig (Department of Social Work, CUHK)

Prof. Gu Ming-yue, Michelle (Department of Curriculum and Instruction, CUHK)

Dr. Tang Wai Man Wyman (Centre of Urban History, Culture and Media, CUHK)

Enquiries and Registration

Ms. Connie Lee (lee-connie@cuhk.edu.hk / 3943 7716/ 9516 5619)

Program Goals

- Engage 40 women of different ethnic origins
- After the program, participants will be able to:
 - Raise confidence and self-esteem through new skills and worldviews
 - Broaden social networks and enhance social engagement
 - Develop potential school-parent collaboration
 - Form intercultural teams to develop projects/products to bring positive impact on their family and neighbourhood
- Participants will receive a certificate in recognition of their participation and achievement

Program Design

Our workshops are designed to be both **intercultural and applied**.

Module 1 - Lifestyle, Health, and Society

- Participants engage in communication with themselves, other participants, and the environment through activities in healthy lifestyle;
- Develop team work and build mutual trust with different ethnic groups;
- Acquire skills in problem-solving and conflict resolution.

Module 2 - Expressions of Selfhood and Womanhood

- Participants develop understanding of themselves and explore ways of expression through dance and music;
- Feel comfortable in radiating positive energy and joy as women;
- Learn cross-cultural art forms, and concepts of equality.

Module 3 - My Community and I

- Participants learn new ways to observe the neighbourhood and community, and tell these stories through photographs;
- Learn about change-making programs, and be inspired by social entrepreneurship;
- Listen to experiences of frontline workers, and know more about social innovation and community economy.

Module 4 - Team Projects

- Participants work in teams and match with mentors to design and carry out projects in their community;
- Hold group meetings in September-November to formulate projects/products;
- Subsidy will be given to facilitate the project/products development;
- Present projects/products to start making a change!

Fees

The Program is free of charge.

Travel allowance

Participants may apply for travel allowance, and the decision of the Organizer shall be final.

Program Schedule

Workshops include educational and research activities. Participants will take part voluntarily, and on completion of each workshop, receive a \$50 supermarket coupon.

Module 1 – Lifestyle, Health, and Society

The Social Me: Horizontal Organization Workshop

Date: 1/7/2017

Time: 10:00 – 16:00

Venue: School of Everyday Life, Tai Po

Instructors/Facilitators: Ms. Eno Yim / Ms. Yip Lok Man

My Physical and Mental Health: Yoga and Food Workshop

Date: 8/7/2017

Time: 10:00 – 13:00

Venue: International Yoga Institute, Tsim Sha Tsui

Instructors/Facilitators: Ms. Chew Choo Lin / Ms. Sitarani / Ms. Rai Kanu

Module 2 – Expressions of Selfhood and Womanhood

Body Autonomy: Belly Dance Workshop

Date: 22/7/2017

Time: 10:00 – 13:00

Venue: The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Instructor/Facilitator: Ms. Devi Novianti

My Story and My Song: Music Workshop

Date: 29/7/2017

Time: 10:00 – 13:00

Venue: The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Instructor/Facilitator: Ms. Yuki Fung

Module 3 – My Community and I

Community Observation: Photo-Voice Workshop

Date: 12/8/2017

Time: 10:00 – 13:00

Venue: Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre, Sham Shui Po

Instructor/Facilitator: Dr. Carol Pui-ha Chow

Community Development: Neighbourhood Programs Workshop

Date: 19/8/2017

Time: 10:00 – 13:00

Venue: The Ground Works @St. James Settlement, Wan Chai

Instructor/Facilitator: Ms. Dora Cheng

Module 4 – Team Projects

September to November 2017

Participants will form teams and be guided by mentors to design and carry out community projects.

- Examples are: Media/exhibition production; Writing/publication; Cultural Performances/talks
- Projects may be presented in the closing ceremony

Instructor/Facilitator Profile

Raees Begum Baig

Prof. Baig is Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, CUHK. Her research interests include social policy, civil society and political participation, human rights and equality. She is also an advocate of gender equality and minority rights protection.

Dora Cheng

Ms. Cheng is a Registered Social Worker, and unit-in-charge of The Ground Works, St. James' Settlement. For over a decade, she has developed a Community Economic Development model to overcome poverty situation with grassroots in different communities.

Chew Choo Lin

Ms. Chew is a founder member of the Institute of Women's Empowerment, Jakarta, Indonesia. She is also the executive director of the Institute.

Carol Pui-ha Chow

Dr. Chow is a lecturer at the School of Journalism and Communication, CUHK. Her research interests include visual culture, creative industries and cultural policy, and film studies. She curated the Asian Women Photography Exhibition for the Hong Kong International Photo Festival 2014 and the Dali International Photo Festival 2013.

Yuki Fung

Ms. Fung is an Australian Registered Music Therapist and a passionate musician. She is the founder of Hong Kong Music Therapy Limited. Her clients include children, single parent family, children with special needs, people with dementia, and mental disabilities.

Gu Ming-yue Michelle

Prof. Gu is Assistant Professor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, CUHK. Her research interests are: multi-lingualism and mobility, gender and education, and language and identity. She has recently completed a project on identity construction of ethnic minority adolescents in Hong Kong.

Devi Novianti

Ms. Novianti is an Equal Opportunities Officer at the Equal Opportunities Commission, before which she was Manager at Christian Action. In 2006 she received the Chief Executive's commendation for her work in serving ethnic minority communities. Her contributions were recognized in The List Magazine's "Women of Hope" profiles in Hong Kong in 2014.

Rai Kanu

Ms. Rai started practicing yoga in 2003. She completed the Second Yoga Teaching Training Course organized by International Yoga Institute, and has been a yoga teacher for over 10 years.

Sitarani

Ms. Sitarani completed yoga teacher training courses at International Health and Fitness Institute and International Yoga Institute in 2004 and 2005. She has since been teaching yoga in different private clubs, companies, schools, and community centres.

Siumi Maria Tam

Prof. Tam is Associate Professor at the Anthropology Department, CUHK. Her research interests revolve around migration, gender, ethnic relations and cultural identity. Her recent research focuses on intercultural education and the intersection of academic research and advocacy.

Tang Wai Man Wyman

Dr. Tang is a postdoctoral fellow at the Centre of Urban History, Culture and Media, Institute of Future Cities, CUHK. His current research is on the South Asian sports of kabaddi, with a focus on its transmission, adoption, and adaption in different cultures.

Eno Yim

Ms. Yim graduated from the Department of Fine Arts, CUHK. She has been a Program Manager and Assistant Principal of the Hong Kong School of Creativity for 10 years. She is one of the founders of the School of Everyday Life which facilitates experiential programs for life and environment education.

Yip Lok Man

Ms. Yip graduated from the School of Design (Visual Communication), Hong Kong Polytechnic University. She will receive the CUHK Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Visual Arts) in summer 2017. She has volunteered in the experiential learning program in the School of Everyday Life since 2014.