Presentation by Dr. Seung-Ming Alvin Leung

When: November 4th, 11:30am-1:00pm
Where: 270 Mabel Lee Hall

The Career Development of Chinese University Students: Empirical findings on the Effects of Parental Expectations, Filial Piety, and Cultural-Values Conflict

This presentation will examine the cross-cultural limitations of career development theories, especially for cultural groups with a collective value-orientation, such as, found with Chinese individuals. Based on this critique, three recent studies to examine the effects of collective cultural-values on the career development of Chinese university students are examined. In the first study, the effects of cultural-values conflict (that is, the co-existence of traditional and modern cultural values) and parental expectations on career decision-making difficulties are examined. For the second study the effects of filial piety on career choice and development are addressed. In the third study, parental expectations on adolescents’ career choice is compared with the career aspirations of the children. The findings from the three studies are integrated and discussed in relation to theory, research, and practice.

Biography

Seung-Ming Alvin Leung is Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Educational Psychology and Associate Dean for Research in the Faculty of Education at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He received his Ph.D in counseling psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and has previously held faculty positions at University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Houston. He has been involved in training counselors, teachers, and psychologists for over 20 years. His major areas of scholarly interest include career development and assessment, cross-cultural, multicultural, international issues in counseling, and counseling in educational settings. He has published over 60 scholarly articles in refereed journals, handbooks, and other academic books. He has served as PI for research grants from the Hong Kong Research Grants Committee and Quality Education Fund, and for various training/development grants from the Hong Kong Education Bureau. He currently serves as editor of the Asian Journal of Counselling. He is the first counseling psychologist from outside the United States to serve as Associate Editor of The Counseling Psychologist (1999-2002). He is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association (APA) and the Hong Kong Professional Counselling Association. He received the Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of the Counseling Profession Award at the 2008 International Counseling Psychology Conference in Chicago, and the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award from his alma mater. He is one of the Tri-Chairs of the International Section of the Society of Counseling Psychology of APA (2008-2010).