

CCPL Lunchtime Seminar

Lessons from Gay and Lesbian Activism in Asia: The Importance of Context, Pivotal Incidents and Connection to a Larger Vision

THURSDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2015, 13:00 – 14:00
11/F, CHENG YU TUNG TOWER, CENTENNIAL CAMPUS
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

In this lunchtime seminar, Dr. Ben Capell will present his research on the recent developments and success factors of activism in various Asian societies. In it, he will discuss the development of the movement for equal rights for gays and lesbians in Hong Kong, Mainland China, Singapore, Taiwan and Malaysia. He will explore how various elements condition the evolution and achievements of activist efforts. His data from interviews and literature review suggests that activists tend to make the greatest progress where they operate in an environment that encourages citizens' political involvement, where legislators are selected based on popular vote, and where the society is receptive to LGB issues and to minority rights. Beyond these contextual conditions, evidence shows that activists can make critical progress when they are able to capitalize on pivotal incidents that have the potential of generating public empathy, and when they successfully draw connections between their specific claims to the values and needs shared by the larger population.



Dr Ben Capell
Former CCPL Visiting
Fellow

Non-presenting co-authors:
- CCPL Director Puja Kapai,
- Dr. Sherif Elgebeily, CCPL
ARO

Dr Ben Capell was a CCPL Visiting Fellow (March – June 2015), where he researched drivers of inclusion in Asian Global Cities. The study focussed on different approaches to address discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in global Asian cities, including Hong Kong, Shanghai, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Taipei. Ben holds a doctorate from ESADE Business School and his main areas of research include Trust, Cross-Cultural Management, Organisational HR practices and Diversity. Ben is also a head researcher of ESADE's Future of Work Chair, an academic research unit dedicated to understanding future trends in workplaces and helping organisations prepare for tomorrow's reality. Apart from his academic work Ben is also an organisational development consultant and has held multiple senior roles in leading multinational corporations in the area of people development.

Please click [here](#) for online registration to reserve a place.
For inquiries, please email Joyce Fung at joycef@hku.hk

