Rule of Law Education Project (ROLE)

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Background to the ROLE

- Rule of law became one of the compulsory topics of Liberal Studies Subject for secondary school students when new DSE curriculum was launched in 2009.

- ROLE was launched in April 2012 in response to the increasing demand of the teachers who are required to teach the rule of law.

- ROLE has been one of the KE initiatives of the Faculty of Law, under the supervision of the Associate Dean (Research), partnering with legal scholars, practitioners, NGO leaders, education experts, legislators and senior Liberal Studies teachers to promote topics concerning the rule of law in the community.

- The vision of ROLE is to ensure the status of Hong Kong as an international city and one of the major financial centres by enhancing citizens’ understanding of the rule of law.

- The project facilitates communication between legal academics and the general public.
Summary of the Impact

Engagement with

- Secondary Schools- 21 Post-exam Rule of Law Seminars for more than 1000 secondary schools students
- Liberal Studies Teachers- 350 teachers from more than 80 secondary schools
- General public- ROLE Website with 43,785 users and 91,272 page views, Facebook page with 1507 followers, 51 educational videos on YouTube channel with 9391 views, popular book in 2013 Hong Kong Book Fair
- Legal Practitioners- take part in the management committee, provide training for teachers, write articles for the ROLE website
- Publishers of Liberal Studies Textbooks-All publishers incorporated our opinions in the revision of the textbooks
- NGOs- Cooperation with Professional Teachers’ Union, The Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention and Amnesty International Hong Kong in different ways
Underpinning Research

Four Levels of the Rule of Law (ROL)

- Checks & Balances
- Human Rights
- Obedience to Law
- Legal Provisions
- Spirit of ROL
- Fair Trial
- Equal before the law
- Democracy
- Justice
- Judicial Independence
- Obedience to Law
- Equal before the law
- Justice through law
- Limitation from Law
- Regulation by Law
- Existence of Law

Benny Y.T. Tai, 法治心：超越條文與制度的法律價值 The Passion for Rule of Law: Values beyond Legal Text and Legal Institutions (Hong Kong Educational Publishing Co., 2012) [Chinese]
Partnering with education experts from EdUHK and headmistress of secondary school, we provide training to university students to design interactive learning activities concerning the rule of law.

After the training, our students not only have gained a better understanding of the rule of law, they are also able to convey the knowledge to lay person in plain language.
Underpinning Teaching & Learning

- Meet with our students at least once a month
- Guide them to research on the topics they choose
- Train them with the skills to convey legal knowledge to laymen in plain language
- Training for skills to handle big lectures and small workshops

106 university students participated

- 92% are Law students
- 8% are students from other Faculties:
  - Architecture Engineering
  - Arts
  - Marketing and Statistics Geography
  - Translation and Counselling Dentistry
  - Nursing
Underpinning Teaching & Learning

Police Powers

Judicial Review

Kung Yunming Case on Social Welfare rights

Same Sex marriage?

Rule of Law Teaching Plans Designed and more to come
Engaging the Secondary Schools

University students conduct learning activities on the rule of law in secondary schools

- LS teachers are engaged in deciding the formats of the teaching and learning
- 1000+ Secondary school students are engaged in the learning activities tailor-made for them
Impacts Achieved

“The seminar has advanced my understanding of the rule of law.”

“The seminar inspires me to think more on the rule of law.”

“It is very interesting, should organise more activities of this kind.”

Positive comments from S4 to S5 students who participated
Engaging the Liberal Studies Teachers

I. Knowledge Based Seminars
(Interpretation of the Basic Law, Judicial Review, Police Powers, etc.)

II. Teaching Skills Workshops
(The teachers are trained to design teaching kits for the rule of law and receive feedbacks on the spot)
Impacts Achieved

350 Teachers from more than 80 schools attended our training.

Most of them agree that our trainings have:
• Enhanced their understanding
• Inspired them with teaching methods
• Strengthened their confidence to teach the rule of law

Extracts of the comments from teachers:

“The training is a great help to frontline teachers.”

“Looking forward to more seminars on different rule of law topics of this kind.”

“The case studies in the training has enhanced my understanding of the rule of law and has improved my confidence in teaching the rule of law to my students. The training has affirmed my conviction to the rule of law.”
Multiple Ways to Interact with the Public - Internet

Facebook page - 1507 followers, each post reaches 859 people in average
YouTube channel- 51 videos, 66 subscribers, 9397 views
ROLE Website - 43,785 users, 91,272 page views
Engaging the public
- Publication in RTHK Blog for Liberal Studies

- 港人的法律意識 (Hong Kong People’s Conception of law)
  http://www.liberalstudies.hk/blog/ls_blog.php?mode=showThread&id=2838&mother_id=862

- 與「憲」相關的通識概念 (Concepts Regarding the Constitution in Liberal Studies)
  http://www.liberalstudies.hk/blog/ls_blog.php?mode=showThread&id=2025&mother_id=862

- 違憲裁決的突破：「以法達義」 (The Breakthrough of Judicial Review: Justice Through Law)
  http://www.liberalstudies.hk/blog/ls_blog.php?mode=showThread&id=1783&mother_id=862

- 法治不只是指「守法」 (Rule of law is not just law obedience)
  http://www.liberalstudies.hk/blog/ls_blog.php?mode=showThread&id=1648&mother_id=862

- 公民抗命與法治 – 從馬丁路德金說起 (Civil Resistance and Rule of Law- Starting From Martin Luther King)
  http://www.liberalstudies.hk/blog/ls_blog.php?mode=showThread&id=1538&mother_id=862

- 香港法治的未來 (The Future of Rule of Law in Hong Kong)
  http://www.liberalstudies.hk/blog/ls_blog.php?mode=showThread&id=2742&mother_id=862
Engaging the public - Popular Book

We published a book on the rule of law education with ten authors and the target readers are members of the general public. The book was sold out quickly on the first day it came out in the 2013 Hong Kong Book Fair. We realise there is a strong demand in the community for knowledge of the rule of law. As a leading law school in Hong Kong and beyond, the Faculty of Law has a social responsibility to conduct research on the rule of law education and publish accessible materials for the benefit of the general public.
Engaging Legal Practitioners

- Organised seminar for lawyers
- Invited lawyers as speakers in seminars for LS teachers
- Involved lawyers in the Management Committee for ROLE
Engaging the Publishers

- All quoted our Rule of Law Theory
- All Liberal Studies Textbooks are reviewed
- All accepted our suggestions of revisions
- All publishers changed the contents because of our suggestions

Textbook Review
Impacts Achieved

In 2014 and 2015, we presented our review opinions in the annual PTU Symposia for liberal studies. This symposium attracts more than 300 teachers in each year. The textbook review and cooperation with PTU will continue to be one of our main tasks.

https://www.hkptu.org/ls2016
https://www.hkptu.org/ls2015
https://www.hkptu.org/ls2014
Engaging the NGOs

Cooperation with AIHK in social media strategies

Yearly Presentation in Symposium for Teachers since 2014

Training 30 to 40 community workers for SRACP on 11 June 2016
Media Coverage

SCMP
Sing Tao Daily
Ming Pao Daily
Oriental Daily
The Sun
Apple Daily
Impacts Achieved

Beneficiaries-

- 350+ Liberal Studies Teachers
- 80+ Secondary Schools
- 1000+ S4 to S5 Students
- All Liberal Studies Textbook Publishers
- 3 NGO (AIHK, SRACP, PTU)
- 30 to 40 Community Workers
- Potentially All Hong Kong citizens