

## Teaching and Learning Experience Sharing (TALES) Workshop

# Learning to Serve, Serving to Learn — a journey through academic service-learning



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#### Date

8 March 2017  
Wednesday

#### Time

12:45 to 2:15 p.m.  
(light lunch from 12:30 to 12:45 p.m.)

#### Venue

ACC209  
2/F, Jockey Club Academic Community Centre,  
Baptist University Road Campus

### Abstract

A university's mission is to prepare students to become responsible, productive members of society. Society invests in its own future by educating its citizens through the university. For both reasons, it makes sense for university students to be engaged in and learn from society.

Service-learning is an experiential learning pedagogy that educates students about a social issue, brings them out to address those challenges using their classroom-learned skills, and teaches them to reflect and learn from their experiences. It is at once challenging and rewarding for both teacher and student. However, questions still persist: how does one manage a service-learning course? How does one assess it? Does it make sense for students to be required to do community service? Will it detract from the "survival" issues of research, promotion and retention?

In this talk, we will share some of the experiences that we have had with (1) designing and teaching our own course; (2) supporting and coordinating the 50+ courses that are delivered at PolyU every year; (3) conducting research into and facilitated through service-learning.

### Biography

Dr Grace Ngai and Dr Stephen Chan were the recipients of the UGC Award for Teaching 2016 (team) and the PolyU President's Award for Services (2016).

Grace graduated from Brown University and Johns Hopkins University in the US and is currently Associate Professor in the Department of Computing at Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and Associate Head of the Office of Service-Learning. She is also the founding coordinator of the Subcommittee for Service-Learning Subjects, which oversees the approval and offering of all SL subjects, and the co-facilitator of the Community of Practice on Service-learning.

Dr Stephen Chan received his PhD in Electrical Engineering from The University of Rochester in the USA in 1987. He then worked for Neo-Visuals in Toronto, and the National Research Council of Canada in Ottawa. He is the founding and current Head of the Office of Service-Learning at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

At PolyU, Grace and Stephen have successfully pioneered a number of teaching initiatives, one of the most prominent being service-learning (SL). They have brought students on service projects in Hong Kong, the Chinese mainland, Cambodia and Rwanda. They proposed one of the first SL subjects at PolyU, and they play key roles in the effort to support and promote PolyU's SL initiative. Through numerous T&L projects, they have initiated workshops, seminars and salons on topics in offering, assessing and conducting scholarly work in service-learning. From 6 subjects and 200 students in 2012, as of 2016, OSL coordinates the development and offering of 60 service-learning subjects and numerous projects across the university for 4,000+ students each year. These include many projects in Hong Kong, as well as 20+ projects in mainland China, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Myanmar, Rwanda and Kyrgyzstan.

## Enquiries and Registration

For enquiries:  
(852) 3411-7231

Please visit  
<http://chtl.hkbu.edu.hk/workshop/reg.php>  
and register now

