



Professor Clifton Emery

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Biography

Clifton Emery is Associate Professor of Social Work and Social Administration at The University of Hong Kong. He is a theorist, a social worker, and a statistician. His approach to research and scholarship brings empirical and theoretical rigor and clarity to the study of conflict and its resolution in the context of power disparities. His work focuses primarily on abuse and violence against women, children, and refugees.

Clifton has carried out survey research in the US, China, South Korea, Hong Kong, Spain, Russia, Vietnam, Mongolia, Nepal, Ghana, Tunisia, and on North Korean refugees. His areas of research include (1) theorization and investigation of the mechanisms that underlie the relationship between informal social control and child maltreatment and intimate partner violence, (2) development of a new theory of the lived experience of child maltreatment and polyvictimization, (3) development of research, policy and practice to better protect women from intimate partner violence based on his theory of totalitarian, despotic, tolerant, conflict, and anarchic types of IPV.

Clifton recently received a major grant from UNICEF. He is the Associate Editor for Child Abuse & Neglect (IF = 4.863, h5-index = 75, ranked 1 in social work by Google Scholar). He is the Academic Expert for Help for Children Asia Branch and guides the organization's grant making. He is currently the PI for a GRF longitudinal study of informal social control, child maltreatment, and adolescent substance addiction among mothers and adolescent children in a representative sample of Nepal. Clifton has been an expert witness in three countries and an advisor to the South Korean Ministry of Justice. In one expert witness case his testimony is credited with a 10-fold increase in the percentage of successful asylum claims. In 2021 his research influenced Hong Kong government policy.