

From Grey & Pride to Suk Suk and Beyond: Oral Histories of Older Gay Men in Hong Kong through Participatory Action Research

Abstract

This seminar showcases an unique knowledge exchange case on the theme of aging and sexuality. Through participatory action research, Professor Kong scholarly work on older gay men has led to a series of social impacts on society. Firstly, it resulted in the establishment of Grey and Pride (2014-), the only non-governmental organization working for the well-being of older LGBT+ individuals in Hong Kong. This organization holds regular monthly gatherings, operates a hotline, and conducts public education and advocacy to raise awareness of the unspoken needs and challenges of older LGBT+ individuals. Secondly, it inspired the multi-awarded movie Suk Suk (Director Ray Yeung, 2019), reaching a wide range of audiences worldwide. Thirdly, it brought the concerns and rights of older LGBT+ individuals to the public agenda through talks, seminars, and workshops. Professor Kong will discuss major social impacts on different beneficiaries in Hong Kong society: empowering older LGBT+ individuals and the LGBT+ community; developing LGBT+ friendly training programme and codes of practice for social service providers; educating private sectors to formulate non-discrimination initiatives in the workplace; informing the government on elderly policies responsive to different genders and sexualities; and educating the general public on the importance of gender and sexual diversity and social inclusion.