

surveys on various policy issues, holding press conferences, and joining force with the academic departments and other research centres within and outside the Faculty to undertake policy research and organize research seminars, workshops and related endeavours. The Centre is distinguished from similar units in other universities by its close collaboration with academic departments and other research units of the University, and by its commitment to pursuing academic excellence in the realm of social science studies.

The mission of the Centre is fivefold, namely:

1. To provide institutional and infrastructural support for enhancing research, both quantitative and qualitative, initiated by staff members of the Faculty of Social Sciences;
2. To provide support to other academic and administrative units within the University in conducting telephone and other surveys as well as data analysis of different levels of methodological sophistication;
3. To provide knowledge transfer to the community through undertaking contract research and consultancy services for other academic institutions, the HKSAR Government, NGOs and business enterprises;
4. To synergize inter-disciplinary research endeavours within and beyond the Faculty of Social Sciences; and
5. To enhance the visibility and image of the Faculty and the University by the promulgation of research findings to the community at large.

Services Provided by CASR

Implementation of large-scale telephone surveys, interviews, data cleaning, data analysis and reporting, questionnaire design, website design and development, web-based course management support, etc.

Centre for Applied Ethics

The Centre for Applied Ethics was formally inaugurated on 13 May 1992. It is the first of its kind to be established in China and one of the first in Asia. The development of ethical centres is urgently needed in Hong Kong as it is undergoing unprecedented rapid economic and socio-cultural changes. There is a real problem of ethical tension and disorientation. Although there are similar centres in Europe and North America, the results of their research are not always immediately useful to Asian societies in general and to Hong Kong in particular. At the same time, their social-ethical issues are not always the same as ours. The Centre, while seeking to formulate ethical solutions on the basis of universal principles, will be culturally sensitive in its endeavours.

Missions

1. To stimulate critical thinking about fundamental ethical concerns in contemporary society
2. To raise awareness of moral values
3. To further strengthen the University's commitment to research and whole-person education

On-going Research Programme

1. Cross-Cultural Bioethics
2. Cross-Cultural Social-Political Ethics
3. Confucian Ethics in Cross-Cultural Perspectives

Major Publications

1. *A Confucian-Christian Dialogue in Contemporary Context* (2010)
2. *Environmental Ethics: Intercultural Perspectives* (2009)
3. *The Bioethics of Regenerative Medicine* (2009)
4. *International Journal of Chinese & Comparative Philosophy of Medicine* (1998–present)

Centre for Child Development

The Centre for Child Development (CCD) was established in September 1991. The Centre is the first of its kind established in a higher institution in Hong Kong which signifies the recognition of the concern for our children. It also signifies the convergence of care for children from academics across various disciplines and people from different walks of life.

Aims

As its goals, CCD works to: (1) initiate collaborative research on children, youth, families and schools; (2) disseminate research information on child development to academic and community professionals, policy makers, parents, and others interested in children and families; and (3) offer training and learning experiences to children, youth, parents and community professionals.

Services

CCD strives to provide information and learning experience in ways appropriate and convenient for different audiences. The following are some examples:

1. For community professionals
Newsletter—*House of Tomorrow*, research reports, conferences and seminars.
2. For legislators and government agencies
Consultation meeting, seminars, workshops, current research on child development.
3. For academic community
Articles in professional journals, conferences, seminars, workshops, and current research on child development.
4. For parents, children and the public
Informative pamphlets, media interviews, workshops on positive development and parenting issues, and educational programmes.

Current Development

At present and in the future, the Centre has identified four important areas of child-adolescent development. These include: Children's Psychological Development, Creativity, Gifted and Quality Education, and Parenting Education. Various research and training activities will be carried out in respect to the above four areas.

The ongoing projects are listed as follows:

1. The use of Wallach-Kogan Creativity Tests in other Chinese communities
2. Intermediate Course for Teachers: Nurturing Gifted Learners on Leadership, Creativity and Critical Thinking
3. A Study of the Psychological Adjustment of Creative Children
4. Evaluation Study of the Use of Storytelling Services in Building Parents' Confidence in Story-telling, Children's Creativity and Confidence, and Parent-Child Relationship

Centre for China Urban and Regional Studies

The Centre aims at cultivating academic exchange and undertaking high quality collaborative research on urban and regional issues on contemporary China. The Centre particularly advocates and enhances interdisciplinary research, with the view to identifying growth opportunities, finding means to mitigate the development strains and addressing the array of conflicting forces that are at work transforming China's space economy, society and environment.