

When Young People Have no Dreams:  
Social Policies and Community  
Practices for Promoting Youth Purpose

Siu-ming To

Assistant Professor

Department of Social Work, CUHK

# Standard

My dad, mom and teachers would have high expectations and they often said 'if you can't enter university, you have to say good-bye. But if you can go into university, you'll be...' They keep nagging in my ears as buzzing bees. If I can't get into university, what should I do? This is my problem.

## Entering University is the end?

In the summer, I felt blue. The public exam result released, and I got an offer from the CUHK. I was happy but my friends weren't. They were all knocked out. I was the only one entering university. I went to the orientation camp in order to get a girlfriend as soon as possible. Oh! On the very first day, I know there was a big problem. In front of me, there were full of 'pure prefects' just like in secondary school. Perhaps they thought a guy dying blond hair and uttering some foul languages would be the most playful ones. For me, who always hang out at soccer pitches and electronic games centers, I understood well who are the 'good students' inside. It's okay. Being the well-behaved is not sinful, neither is the one who pretends to be naughty. I'll wait and see.

We were yelling the slogans such as ‘my group is superb’, ‘my group “dad” (i.e. the male group leader) is the most handsome guy’, ‘I’m the strongest in CUHK’, etc. All of these slogans are very silly like primary school kids boasting themselves. It’s really disgusting. There was a mutual attack session. They asked two group of students to stare and rebuke at each other just like the gangs. You had to put on a black long face and howl. Grasping the script in hand, you had to attack them by teasing the ‘dad’ of another group as girlish while despising his group members as deceiving guys who forcefully make themselves look more handsome. Dammit! If you really don’t like each other, you should talk or even fight privately. Why? Why did you pretend to be enemies and attack each other but in fact we were strangers. I know... The path for straight-A is really hard. When you get into university, you don’t want to be submissive nor disobedient. The only way is to be ecstatic. But why? Why should I call you as ‘dad’ or ‘mom’? ‘babe, do you feel tired?’, ‘I’m so happy to have you as my group “dad”!’, ‘group “mom”, shall we have reunion as soon as possible?’ ... Everywhere was filled with these passionate words and phrases... I can’t stand it anymore!

# Comparison

The mass media like newspapers or news reports also talked about university students who swept streets. Supposedly, you go into university in order to raise your competitiveness, and the chance you will do the job of this kind will seem to reduce.

# Comparison



# Multiplicity

I think it's too excessive that nowadays the kids need to learn everything including swimming and all other skills. I see that many children have many extra-curricular activities. It is doubtful if parents could do so many things as well? They start going to school at 7:00 every morning and attend different classes afterwards until they sleep at 10:00p.m. It is really tough for kids doing this day by day. We don't even go to work for such a long time!



# Multiplicity





# Efficiency

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.memorial.gov.hk/Default.aspx>. The page features a blue header with the site title "無盡思念 網站" and navigation links for "聯絡我們", "ENG", and "繁體". The main content area has a background image of a path through a field of dandelions under a blue sky with clouds. The central text reads: "讓我們在這裏表達 對逝者的思憶與悼念". Below this, a paragraph states: "只要你的親友是食環署火化、土葬或海葬服務的使用者，或安葬/安放於香港私營墳場或私營骨灰龕，你都可以為他/她建立紀念網頁。". Three main service buttons are displayed: "初次建立紀念網頁" (with fields for email and password), "修訂/增加紀念網頁" (with fields for email and password), and "搜尋紀念網頁" (with a search field and "搜尋" button). The footer includes logos for the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Silver Award, along with a copyright notice for 2010 and a resolution recommendation of 1024 x 768 pixels.

無盡思念  
網站

聯絡我們 | A A A | ENG | 繁體

讓我們在這裏表達  
對逝者的思憶與悼念

只要你的親友是食環署火化、土葬或海葬服務的使用者，  
或安葬/安放於香港私營墳場或私營骨灰龕，你都可以為他/她建立紀念網頁。

**初次建立紀念網頁**  
登記個人資料並建立親友的紀念網頁  
示範短片 註冊

**修訂/增加紀念網頁**  
請輸入電郵地址  
請輸入密碼  
忘記密碼 登入

**搜尋紀念網頁**  
請輸入逝者姓名  
進階搜尋  
示範短片 搜尋

食物環境衛生署  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Silver Award  
HONG KONG ICT AWARDS 2011

紀念花園 撒灰  
銀色殯葬

流動版本 | 關於本網站 | 常見問題 | 免責聲明 | 知識產權告示 | 私隱政策 | 使用條款 | 意見調查  
Copyright © 2010 食物環境衛生署版權所有不得轉載

請使用 1024 x 768 螢幕解析度瀏覽此網站，會有更佳效果。

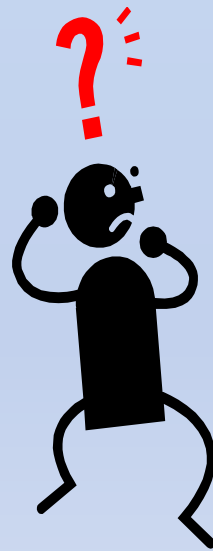
17:52  
20/9/2014

Standard

Comparison

Multiplicity

Efficiency



# Freedom & Space



# Possibility

- Dream as a form of consciousness
- Consciousness is always consciousness of something instead of consciousness of nothing

# Possibility

I think you guys are twisting and decorating the facts. It doesn't reflect the brutality of the society. Under the severe competitions in the society, you talk about 'dreams'... You encourage us to chase our dreams. But in fact, in this society, money is too important...

Many people are driven by the current situation and put aside their dreams to follow the way of the society.

# Support

Like my younger brother who is able to go into university. But he told my mom that he wants to study music and would like to opt for stage music at APA (Art and Performance Academy). But as he will have low income and face very few opportunities (for those who perform stage music), my mom opposed his decision.



# Support

The government has deployed so limited resources on cultural and creative industries like sports, music, etc. If you want to develop in this area, you have to put extra time and efforts into it. To do so, it means you may not be able to do well academically and this may become an obstacle. This may drive you to choose academic achievement instead of building up your talents or interests wholeheartedly.

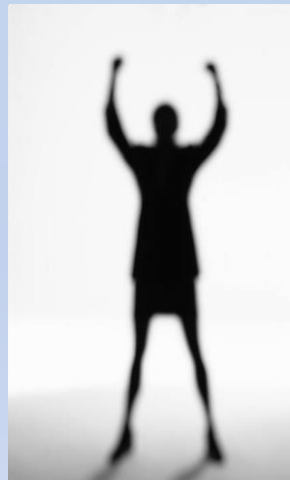


# Let go

I think I can always choose my way. If I fail, this is my own responsibility. My parents have told me that they wanted me to choose a path that would help me become a professional. But I won't debate with them. I would just tell them to let me choose. I'll be responsible for my own choice. I adopt this attitude.

Space

Possibility



Support

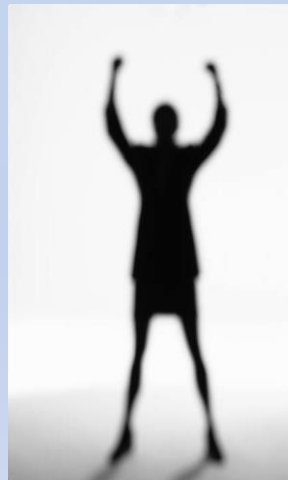
Let go

Quality of  
life

Self-  
actualization

Social  
inclusion

Civic  
participation





Thank you!

[Tel.: 39437375](tel:39437375)

[E-mail: siumingto@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:siumingto@cuhk.edu.hk)