

“Culture, context and controversies: Peer support services in non-Western mental health settings”

Speaker: Professor Samson Tse

Dear members



It was a cold winter evening, but we had a great turnout for the 11th June 2019 Cross-Cultural Interest Group presentation. 49 colleagues from various health disciplines attended the evening presentation. We want to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to Janssen Pharmaceutical for supporting our session by sponsoring for the catering. We also want to thank those who stayed behind to help us tidy up the meeting room and rearrange the furniture.



Our presenter, **Professor Samson Tse** is the Professor in Mental Health, the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Education) at the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Director of the Master of Social Sciences in Counselling in the Department of Social Work and Social Administration at the University of Hong Kong. Before his relocation to Hong Kong, he has worked in New Zealand (Dunedin and Auckland) for over 20 years. He has had a long-standing interest in supporting persons with mental health issues or gambling addiction by using recovery approach and strength-based interventions.

Professor Samson Tse provided a comprehensive description and evaluation of the concept of peer support services and its application in non-Western mental health settings. He described the unique roles of peer support workers and how they bring their lived experience of mental distress and recovery to bring **H.O.P.E.** (**H**ope, **R**ole-modelling, **P**actical tips/life skills and **E**mpathy) to benefit other service users who are currently in crisis or struggling. He talked about the peer support workforce in the context of paid and unpaid employment, the change process underpinning peer work interventions, and the challenges peer support workers face in the workplace. In the latter part of the seminar, Professor Tse explored the role and importance of 'culture' and 'collectivism' in the current discourse across Hong Kong, New Zealand and beyond. He used Chinese examples to explain (1) the semantics of the word "Peer Support" to help service users understand the role of peer support workers; (2) the use of the concept "Face" or the "Loss of Face" to help improve access for, and engagement with, service users; and (3) the need to address the hierarchical view of power and knowledge between health professionals and peer supporters to enable effective integration of peer support within the health system. At the end of the session, there were several questions and discussion.



For more detail about the session, you can view the recording via the **Vimeo link:**

<https://vimeo.com/342063888>

Password: WongConsultationGroup1234

WATCH OUT FOR THE AUGUST 2019 SESSION!!

What: "An introduction to Child Protection related legislations 2019"

Speaker: Margaret Chen **Facilitator:** Patrick Au

When: Tuesday: 27th August 2019 (6pm to 8.30pm)

Where:: Conference Room, Independent Living Service, 14 Erson Avenue, Royal Oak, Auckland

Thank you again for your interest and support and we look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Elsie Ho (Session Facilitator)

On behalf of the Cross Cultural Interest Advisory Group

For more information about the advisory group, newsletters, membership application, previous topics, please go to www.ecald.com/cross-cultural-interest-group/.

