



Department of Sociology

Seminar

Dr. Day Wong

Associate Professor, Sociology Department, HKBU

Embodying Place and Class Habitus: Passing Practices of
Male-to-female Cross-dressers in Hong Kong

Date: 5 November 2020 (Thursday)

Time: 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

ZOOM Link: <https://hkbu.zoom.us/j/92391813346>

ZOOM ID: 923 9181 3346

Language: English

Abstract

The focus of this study is the making of transgender space in the city of Hong Kong, and its fundamental relation with transgender embodiment and practices. Drawing on Bourdieu's notions of capital and habitus, it examines how cross-dressers' place-making not only takes on a diverse and transient form, but embodies the socio-spatial polarization in the broader context. Based on an ethnographic study during 2012 to 2018, two sites of place-making are identified for analysis: 'Clubhouse' and the neighborhood of Sham Sui Po, and the hotel and bar areas in Wan Chai. A juxtaposition of different sites of body transgenering prompts the question of how difference is embodied, managed and performed in the city of Hong Kong. Attention to the roles of place and class habitus will complicate our theoretical understanding about gender passing by highlighting the complex processes of negotiation and investment, as well as the materiality and spatiality of particular passing practices.

Biography

Day Wong is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Hong Kong Baptist University. Her research interests include construction of gender and (a)sexual identities, practices of intimacy, transgender issues, and queer/feminist politics. She has published in journals such as Journal of Sociology, Sexualities, Journal of Homosexuality, Violence against Women, Women Studies International Forum, and other peer-reviewed journals.

Remarks: Students who would like to apply for CCL please **register via SLES in advance and access the Zoom Link via the HKBU account ONLY** (i.e. @life.hkbu.edu.hk). Otherwise, attendance would not be counted.

