



POLYU Junior Researcher Mentoring Programme 2024



Code:	JRMP2024_31
School / Department:	School of Hotel and Tourism Management
Name of Research Team Member(s):	Dr Michael Lin, Assistant Professor
Research Topic:	Food waste sustainability-oriented innovation for small- and medium-sized restaurant businesses
Short Description of the Research Project:	<p>In 2015, the United Nations proposed its 2030 Agenda for ensuring sustainable development by adopting 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The implementation of the SDGs requires businesses to devise or adopt sustainability-oriented innovations (SOIs). However, not all businesses can adopt SOIs; in particular, owing to resource constraints, small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) face challenges in adopting such innovations.</p> <p>Nevertheless, SOIs can benefit SMEs by increasing their competitive advantage and ensuring their compliance with the sustainable development targets. SMEs may require extensive information from multiple stakeholders when adopting food waste SOIs. This information could be related to the costs and benefits of adopting such SOIs and could influence SMEs' decision-making. There are limits to SMEs' information about SOIs and their knowledge of how to process this information, but it is unclear how a lack of such information affects SMEs' decision-making.</p> <p>Therefore, this project will answer the following research question: How can SMEs identify relevant cost and benefit information about SOI adoption to improve their decision-making? A mixed-methods research design involving three studies will be used to answer this research question.</p> <p>The participating students will assist in Study 1 with semi-structured interviews with approximately 45 successful SOI adopters in restaurants (regardless of size). They will also</p>

	learn about sustainability practices within the restaurant industry by supporting the qualitative data analysis.
No. of Places Offered:	2
Frequency of Meetings:	Bi-weekly
Special Requirement(s):	The participating students should be able to speak fluent Cantonese and English.

** The information presented above is subject to change.*