

# ENGLink

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## PLACE Camp 2017 – Exploring BAESP (20 July 2017)



Professor Kathleen Ahrens (front row second from right) and Dr Dennis Toy (left) welcome the students to the full-day activity organised by the Department.



Ms Angela Tse introduces fashionable words in English to the students and the secret behind the way they are formed.



Dr Dennis Toy teaches the students how to explore the hidden and very interesting 'friendship' between words and numbers.



Dr Renia Lopez takes the students for an eye-opening journey about the cities, cultures, and languages in Europe.

PolyU Language and Culture Exploration (PLACE) Camp organised by the Faculty of Humanities was held from 18 – 21 July 2017. It attracted a total of 102 secondary/high school students from Hong Kong and other parts of the world including Korea, Macau, Malaysia, Mongolia and Taiwan. The Camp provided participants an opportunity to experience university student life at the Faculty, Our BA (Hons) in English Studies for the Professions (BAESP) programme offered a one-day activity on 20 July for the participating students to gain hands-on experience and interesting knowledge about English language and to have a better understanding about European culture.

Three practical workshops were arranged in the morning, namely **"Modern fashionable language in English"**, **"Words and numbers are friends, not enemies!"** and **"What makes a good PowerPoint presentation – A hands-on experience"**. In the afternoon, some BAESP students talked about their study experience at a sharing session. It was then followed by cultural talks about Europe, France, and Italy and a Flamenco workshop.

## Event Highlights

### Orientation Events for the New Academic Year

The Department arranged two orientation activities to help students to make a smooth start for the 2017-18 academic year:

#### 1. Programme Orientation for MA Students (2 September 2017)

About 50 new students from the MA in English Studies for the Professions (MAESP) programme took part in this afternoon activity. Programme Leader Professor Martin Warren gave an introduction to the programme and the Department to allow the students to understand key areas like curriculum, Academic Support Programme, auditing of subjects, study pathways in the Department, etc. Justin Chow, an MA graduate of 2017, was invited to share his study experience with the new students. The last part of the event was a library orientation session conducted by a colleague from the Library. Students were introduced the use of various resources available to them in the library which can support their study.



Prof. Martin Warren explains the various aspects of the MAESP programme to the new students.



Our Department Head Prof. Hans Ladegaard welcomes the new BAESP students at the orientation.

#### 2. Programme Orientation for BA Students (5 September 2017)

New students of BA in English Studies for the Professions (BAESP) were given an overview to the programme curriculum structure and study pathways during the orientation. The students were also briefed on different programmes available to them during their study including overseas exchange, service learning, and Work-Integrated-Education (WIE). In addition, they had the opportunity to meet some of the academic staff who will be teaching them in the coming three years.

### Departmental Seminars

#### 1. Learning Cantonese as an additional language (CAL) or not: What the CAL learners say (11 September 2017)

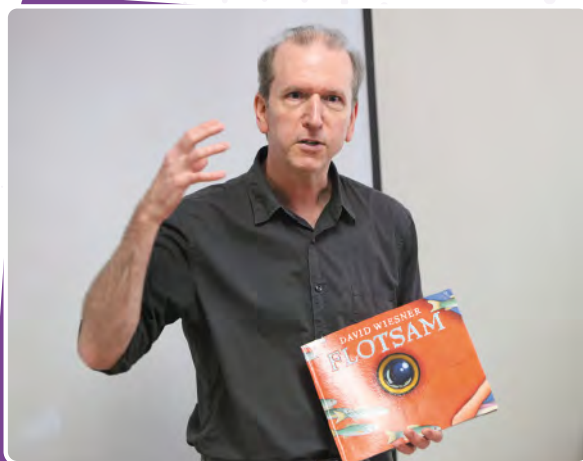
Professor David Li from the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies of PolyU discussed a study showing that learners of Cantonese as an additional language (CAL) in Hong Kong experience a lot of difficulties. Some possible reasons included Cantonese as a 'dialect' is not part of school literacy, and the variety of romanization systems are used in Cantonese course books and bilingual dictionaries. The six distinctive tonemes in the Cantonese tone system has also damaged CAL learners' self-esteem and dampened their motivation to learn and speak Cantonese. Prof. Li concluded that non-Chinese residents who see themselves as Hongkongers often get upset as their identity claims are questioned or even challenged by the mainstream Cantonese society.



## Event Highlights

### 2. The Power of Imagination (21 September 2017)

Multiple-award winning picture book author/illustrator Mr David Wiesner shared his creativity journey when he frames a story. As one of the best-loved and most highly acclaimed picture book creators in the world, Mr Wiesner talked about what he selects to put in the frame and the related issues that he takes into consideration when making these critical decisions. The talk was sponsored by Feng Zikai Chinese Children's Picture Book Award.



### 3. Cultivating values: the value of democracy in an Australian junior secondary classroom (25 September 2017)

Dr Jing Hao, postdoctoral research fellow from our Department, reported on her interdisciplinary research into Australian junior secondary school history teaching. The study investigates the ways in which the value of 'democracy' is developed for the students over four lessons of Ancient History and the data analysed include classroom interaction and teaching materials. The research is informed by theories of linguistics and Sociology of education, specifically Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and Legitimation Code Theory (LCT). Dr Hao adopted a social semiotic approach informed by SFL to answer questions related to concepts in LCT and explored how language resources are allocated and deployed to align persona in communities of shared values. In the four lessons analysed, five dimensions of democracy were identified, namely social/political equality, political participation, political balance, social security, and leadership.

### 4. Tribes and turf wars: Intergroup communication in hospitals (25 September 2017)

As a gastroenterologist, the research of Dr David Hewett from the University of Queensland, Australia examines communication between hospital doctors and its influence on the quality of patient care. During the seminar, he described his research journey in intergroup communication between hospital doctors. His work showed that specialty identity and intergroup conflict are invoked over ambiguous and contested responsibilities for patient care. Findings implicated the structural organization of patient care in the genesis of an intergroup climate, and indicated a central influence of identity on communication between doctors and intergroup conflict on patient care.



## Department Updates

### New Academic Staff in 2017/18 Academic Year

We would like to welcome the below academic staff who joined the Department in September 2017:



**Prof. Louise Cummings, Professor**

**Teaching Areas:** Communication Disorders, Pragmatics, English Grammar, Clinical Linguistics

**Research Interests:** Communication Disorders, Pragmatic Disorders, Speech and Language Therapy, Clinical Linguistics, Pragmatics, Public Health Reasoning



**Dr Nathan Albury, Assistant Professor**

**Teaching Areas:** Language in Society, Language and Globalisation, Multilingualism, Critical Discourse Analysis

**Research Interests:** Sociology of Language, Critical Multilingualism and Multiculturalism, Language Policy, Folk Linguistics, Decolonising Sociolinguistics, Minority Languages



**Dr Anne Schluter, Assistant Professor**

**Teaching Areas:** Discourse Analysis, Sociolinguistics

**Research Interests:** Language and Power (especially as they relate to relationships in the blue-collar workplace), Language Policy and Planning, Political Discourse, Linguistic Landscape Pragmatics, Socio-phonetics



**Dr Gerald Stell, Assistant Professor**

**Teaching Areas:** Languages in Contemporary Societies, English as a Global Lingua Franca, Freshman Seminar in Language, Culture and Communication, Language and Society in Europe, Language and Conflict in the Contemporary World, Languages in a Globalising World, Exploring Language in Social Life

**Research Interests:** Language Variation (lexical, grammatical, phonological), Intergroup Communication, Intergroup Processes, World Englishes, Multilingualism/Language Contact, Creole Languages



**Mr Max Diaz, Instructor**

**Teaching Areas:** Language & Culture, Research Writing for L2 English Learners, Research Presentations for L2 English Learners

**Research Interests:** Educational Technology, EFL Teaching Anxiety, EFL Teacher Training, Intercultural Teacher Training, Learner Motivation, Research Methods Training



**Ms Miranda Fung, Instructor**

**Teaching Areas:** Academic Writing, English for Business Communication, Media and Communication, Sociolinguistics

**Research Interests:** Discourse Analysis, Intercultural Communication, Sociolinguistics

## Research



Prof. Kathleen Ahrens delivers her opening plenary lecture of the conference.

## Academic Staff Gives Plenary Lecture at Metaphor Festival

Professor Kathleen Ahrens gave the opening plenary lecture at this year's Metaphor Festival Conference, held at the University of Amsterdam from 31 August to 2 September. Her talk was titled "Seeing the Unknowable: How Metaphors Break the Fourth Wall." The organizer of the conference Metaphor Lab Amsterdam has also invited Prof. Ahrens to serve on the International Advisory Board for the Lab. She looks forward to on-going collaboration with the Metaphor Lab in terms of projects and exchange opportunities. In particular, she hopes to host postgraduate students from Amsterdam here in the future. She also hopes students in the Department will take advantage of the opportunity to study metaphor abroad for a semester in Amsterdam.

## The Stephen Evans Best Thesis Award and Best Paper Award

The Department has introduced two scholarships for its PhD students, namely The Stephen Evans Best Thesis Award and The Stephen Evans Best Paper Award, in recognition of the contributions and achievements of the late Professor Stephen Evans, former associate head of the Department.

A presentation ceremony was held on 1 September to present the awards to the following PhD students:

### The Stephen Evans Best Thesis Award

Student Name	Title of thesis
AKASHI Tomoko	A Social Semiotic Investigation of Historical Narratives in History Textbooks from Hong Kong and Japan



Mrs Evans presents the award to Tomoko.

### The Stephen Evans Best Paper Award

Student Name	Title of paper
CHING Nok Hang Tiffany	Cheng, W., & Ching, T. (2016). 'Not a guarantee of future performance': The local grammar of disclaimers. doi: 10.1093/applin/amw006
Daniel RECKTENWALD	Toward a transcription and analysis of live streaming on Twitch <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pragma.2017.01.013">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pragma.2017.01.013</a>



Mrs Evans presents the award to Tiffany.

## Recent Research Publications

- Ahrens, K. (2017). Metaphor processing in Chinese. In Rint Sybesma, Wolfgang Behr, Zev Handel & C.T. James Huang (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Chinese language and linguistics*. Leiden: Brill.
- Chevalier, B. A. M., **Watson, B. M.**, Barras, M. A., Cottrell, W. N. and Angus, D. (2017). Hospital pharmacists' and patients' views about what constitutes effective communication between pharmacist and patients. *International Journal of Pharmacy Practice*. doi:10.1111/ijpp.12423
- Ladegaard, H. J. (2017). The disquieting tension of 'the other': University students' experience of sojourn in Hong Kong. *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development* 37(3), 268-282.
- Matthiessen, Christian M. I. M. (2017). "Talking and writing about literature: some observations based on systemic functional linguistics." In Barbara, Leila & Adail Sebastião Rodrigues-Júnior & Giovanna Marcella Verdessi Hoy (eds.). *Estudos e pesquisas em Linguística Sistemico Funcional [Studies and research in Systemic Functional Linguistics]*. São Paulo: Mercado de Letras. 3-37.
- Stell, G. (2017). Social mobility and restructuring: Black Cape Dutch in perspective. *Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages* 32(1): 104-137.
- Tay, D. (2017). Time series analysis of discourse. A case study of metaphor in psychotherapy sessions. *Discourse Studies*, 19(6), 694-710.

## Students and Alumni News

### BAESP Student Appointed as PolyU Student Ambassador



BAESP Year 4 student Hanna Omila is appointed as a PolyU Student Ambassador for the year 2017-18. As a Student Ambassador, Hanna will share her first-hand experience in going through the admission selection process with prospective applicants and actively participate in various promotional activities organized for secondary school teachers, students and their parents, as well as the general public. She will showcase a positive image of PolyU students as being cheerful, sincere, confident and dynamic. The programme is organized by the Academic Secretariat (AS) and 24 students from different academic departments were elected as Student Ambassadors in this academic year.

◀ Hanna receives the appointment letter from Professor S.L. Ho, Associate Vice President (Academic Support) and Academic Secretary.

### My Internship in Dublin — A Summer of being a Dubliner

BAESP Year 3 student Wendy Cheung has spent her summer on Work-Integrated Education (WIE) in Ireland. Below is her sharing on the experience:

“ I have had the first cool summer in my life this year. As an intern, 6 weeks were spent working with a photography company – Lensmen in Dublin – where the summer temperature is usually around 15 to 17 degrees. Earning valuable work experience is priceless but the cultural aspects are even better to learn. They round out one’s personality. I remember my supervisor asked me what my weakness was, and I answered that I was quiet. However, she said that being quiet was not a weakness, it was just my personality. This reminded me that people always put an equal sign between quiet and passive, making it negative, while it is not necessarily a negative adjective.

From the summer I spent at Lensmen, what I really found out is that we must search for a job that we love. When every drop of sweat and tears is the expression of joy from the bottom of our pumping hearts, we are living life to the fullest. ”

Wendy meets Keith Duffy, a member of an Irish boy band Boyzone, at a fundraising event. Wendy wrote an article about the event for her company’s website. ▶

