



HIGHLIGHTS

P2 Invited Talk for the University of Oxford

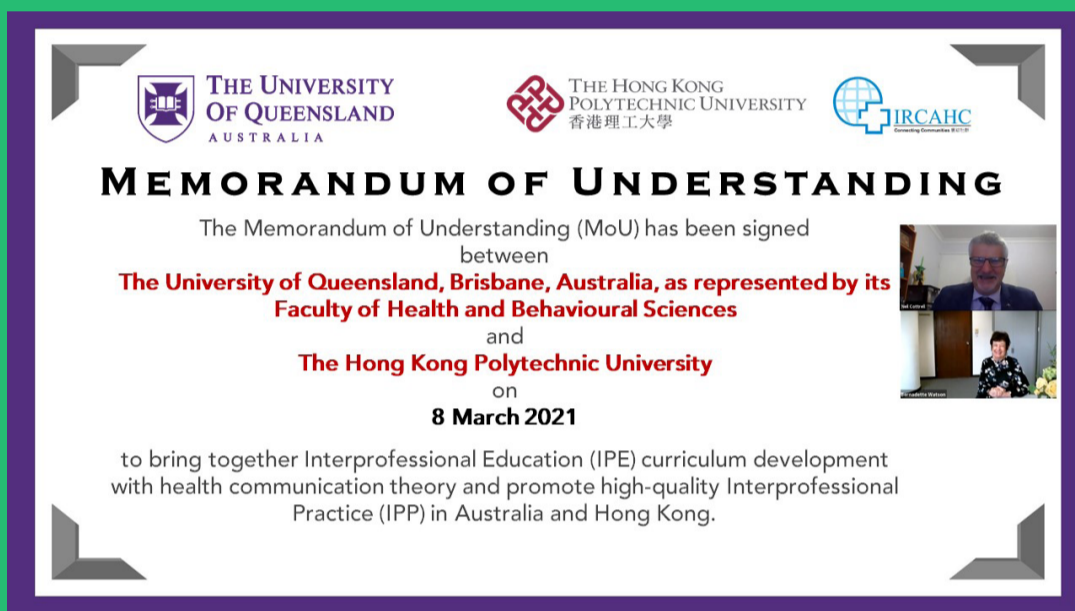
P3 26th Congregation of the Faculty of Humanities (Online)

P6 Research Article Examines Errors in Reasoning about COVID-19

P7 Community Project by BA Student Selected as Outstanding Work by Students



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Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between IRCAHC and The University of Queensland for Collaborations on Healthcare Education and Research

The Department is pleased to announce that a two-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the International Research Centre for the Advancement of Health Communication (IRCAHC) and The University of Queensland (UQ), Australia, was formally signed on 8 March 2021.

Interprofessional education and research is the focus of this MoU, and the partnership harnesses the world-class interprofessional education curriculum of UQ's Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences (HaBS) and the strength in research of IRCAHC.

Associate Professor Neil Cottrell, HaBS Interprofessional Education Director, said this exciting partnership is a significant opportunity that will enhance interprofessional education and research in Hong Kong and Australia. "This two-year MoU provides us the opportunity to develop an interprofessional education communication framework, underpinned by communication accommodation theory," Dr Cottrell stated.

The collaborative team will work on a range of initiatives including academic seminars, collaborative research leading to joint applications for research grants and publications, and co-supervision of Higher Degree Research students.

Professor Bernadette Watson, IRCAHC Director, said the MoU opens the way for the two universities to promote effective interprofessional practice through mutually beneficial education and research.

"Together we can build on the unique expertise both parties bring and forge links with hospitals and healthcare professionals in both regions to ensure best practice," Professor Watson said.



Prof. Watson and Associate Professor Neil Cottrell hold an online meeting to announce the MoU between the two universities.



More about IRCAHC and its research:
<https://www.polyu.edu.hk/engl/ircahc/>

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

New Promotion Video for BA Programme

The Global Engagement Office (GEO) of PolyU produced a new video to help promote our BA (Hons) in English and Applied Linguistics (BAEAL), formerly titled the BA (Hons) in English Studies for the Professions (BAESP). In the video, our Associate Professor Dr Dennis Tay explains how the BAEAL grooms students with the abilities and attributes needed to become competent English language professionals and responsible global citizens. Two of our BA alumni, Vivian Leung and Justin Yuen, can be seen in the video discussing how the knowledge and training they received from our programme helped them develop promising careers upon graduation. The ability to use language in a scientific way and the global mindset acquired through the programme are among things the two alumni found most valuable during their PolyU lives.



Dr Dennis Tay and our two BA alumni, Vivian and Justin, take part in two separate filming sessions for the production of the video.



The video is available on
GEO's YouTube channel:
<https://youtu.be/a67nt4-QRUS>

University of Oxford Invited Talk Given by Academic Staff

Dr Sal Consoli was invited by the Department of Education, University of Oxford, United Kingdom, to give an online talk on 21 February titled "Practitioner researchers and academic researchers can do better together." In the talk, Dr Consoli argued that language teachers are well-placed to conduct research with their own students and showed how teacher-research, done by a practitioner within an educational context, can illuminate phenomena that an "external" researcher may not see. At the same time, Dr Consoli discussed the need for teacher-researchers to receive some kind of training in order to develop a repertoire of research skills which, combined with ethical teacher sensitivity, offer a formidable pathway for successful, useful, and ethically sound research. In other words, practitioners can offer applied linguistics the insider knowledge

and understanding that traditional research approaches may not fully grasp, and academics can offer tools and perspectives from institutional academic research which may support practitioners' inquiries. This is therefore a call for a practice-driven research agenda in language education which invites stronger synergies between practitioner researchers and academic researchers.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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EVENTS
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PRACTITIONER RESEARCHERS AND ACADEMIC RESEARCHERS CAN DO BETTER TOGETHER
22nd February 2021 : 12:00 – 13:00
Category: Seminar Webinar
Research Group: Applied Linguistics
Speaker: Dr Sal Consoli, Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Location: Teams Online

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READ@PolyU Workshop Given by Academic Staff

Dr Phoebe Lin gave an online workshop titled "Strategies for Expanding Your English Vocabulary" on 3 March under the READ@PolyU programme of PolyU's Pao Yue-kong Library. During the workshop, Dr Lin explained the number of words we need to know to function properly in English and introduced tools for measuring our vocabulary size. She also suggested how to find the right books to read and videos and movies to watch. At the end of the workshop, Dr Lin and a Library colleague shared some apps and Library resources for self-directed vocabulary learning. Over 100 PolyU staff and students joined the workshop on Zoom. The Library also broadcast the workshop live on Facebook to allow people who did not register to watch.

Pao Yue-kong Library, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University was live.
2 March at 22:13 · 🌐

READ@PolyU: How do you expand your English vocabulary?

How do you Expand your English Vocabulary?

Dr Phoebe Lin
Assistant Professor
Department of English
Hong Kong Polytechnic University
phoebe.lin@polyu.edu.hk
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Phoebe_Lin4

187 views

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Louis Lo, Richard Pang, Stephen Lam and 2 others like this.

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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to our Graduates at the 26th PolyU Congregation (27 March 2021)



The 26th Congregation of the Faculty of Humanities (FH) was held online on 27 March 2021. It was kicked off with opening remarks from the President of PolyU, Professor Jin-Guang Teng, and from the Dean of FH, Professor Li Ping. We were delighted to celebrate this memorable day with our 210 graduates virtually, where 145 graduates received awards at the postgraduate level or above and 65 graduates were awarded bachelor's degrees.

The Department would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our graduates and to wish everyone a prosperous future!

Professor Hans Ladegaard, Head of the Department, presents postgraduate and undergraduate awards to graduands during the commencement.

Virtual Presentation of the Stephen Evans Awards (17 March 2021)

Since 2018, the Department has offered two scholarships to its PhD students, 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 virtual presentation ceremony was held on 17 March to present the awards for the 2019-20 academic year to two PhD graduates. The Stephen Evans Best Thesis Award was presented to Dr Mark Nartey for his thesis "Discourse and political myth-making: A critical discourse study of Nkrumaism". The Stephen Evans Best Paper Award was given to Dr Madhu Neupane for her paper titled "Supervisory feedback across disciplines: Does it meet students' expectations?".

Upon receiving the award, Dr Nartey expressed, "I look on this award as a memento that will always remind me of the significant role that Professor Stephen Evans played towards my academic development in the seven months that I had him as my supervisor. He made an indelible impression on my mind not only as an academic aficionado but more importantly as an empathetic and benevolent human being. He is still very much in my memory".

Dr Neupane also shared her mixed feelings towards the award: "I feel humbled and honoured to receive this award, and my journey at PolyU started with Professor Stephen Evan's support and encouragement. I was really shattered to know about his untimely demise before I started my PhD. This award means a lot to me, and it has inspired me to work more".

A tribute volume to Professor Evans, *Approaches to Specialized Genres*, was presented to Mrs Evans at the end of the presentation. This special volume was edited by two former PhD students of Professor Evans and our Dr Dennis Tay with an aim to connect Professor Evan's intellectual legacy. It highlights the value and the growing trend of a multi-perspective and inter-theoretic approach to genre research.



Dr Mark Nartey and Dr Madhu Neupane receive their awards during the virtual presentation.



Professor Bernadette Watson (middle) and Dr Dennis Tay (left) present the tribute volume to Professor Stephen Evans to Mrs Evans.



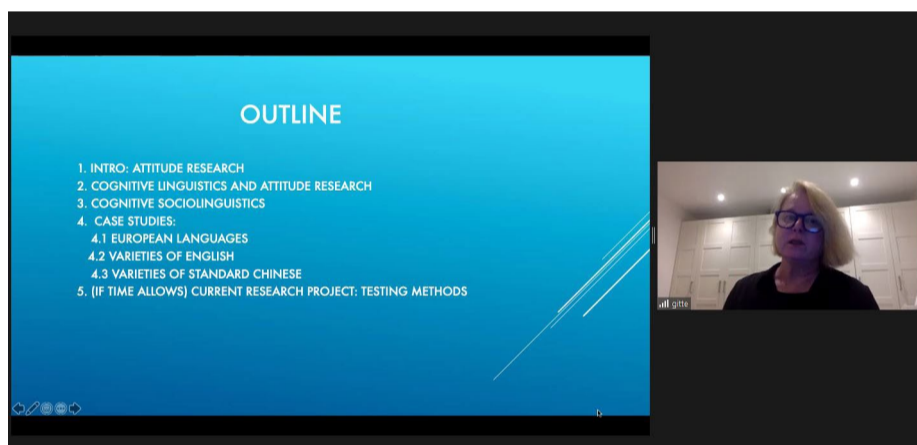
A recording of this virtual presentation is available on the Department's YouTube channel:
<https://youtu.be/QoJkyZ2F0zQ>

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Departmental Online Seminars

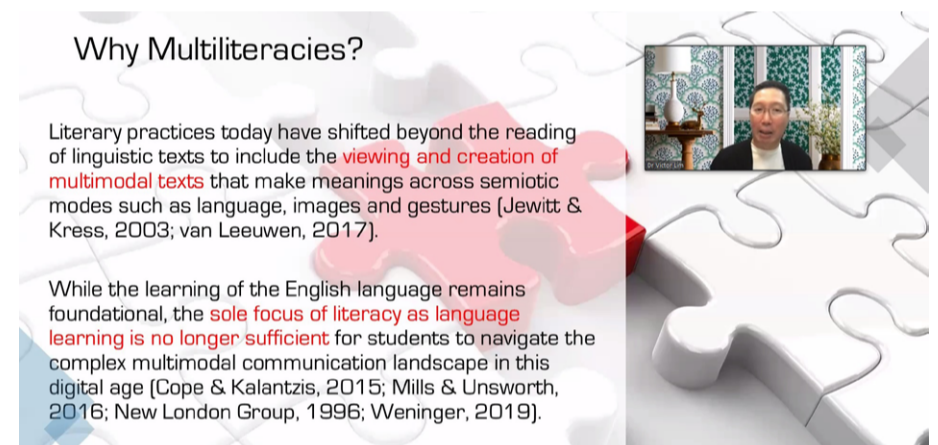
1. Cognitive Sociolinguistics and Attitude Research (28 January 2021)

Dr Gitte Kristiansen from the Department of English Language and Linguistics at the Complutense University of Madrid, Spain, presented to over 130 participants on Zoom the main arguments according to which attitude research is necessarily a cognitive phenomenon. She discussed a few case studies to illustrate using a cognitive sociolinguistic approach to attitude research on different cognitive dimensions include construal, frames, outgroup homogeneity effects, and stereotyping and prototypicality factors.



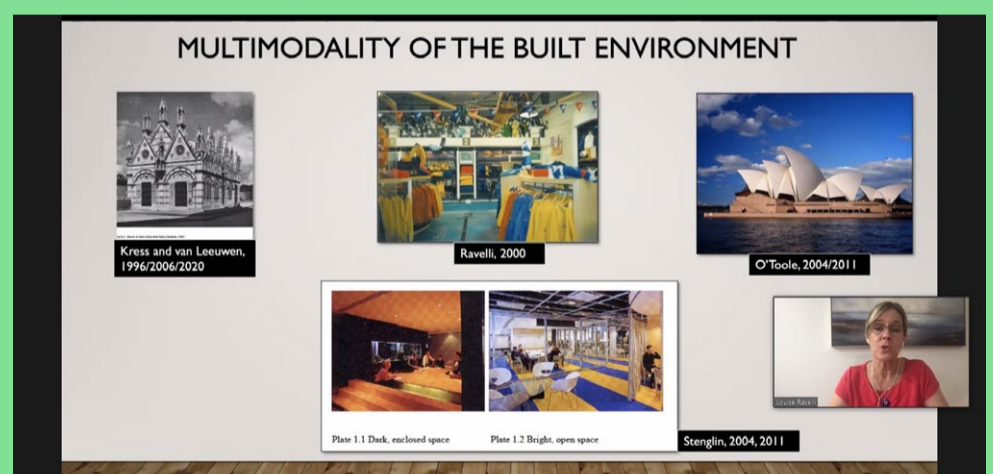
2. “Leave My World Alone” – What Students Want in Learning Multimodal Literacy (15 March 2021)

Education systems all over the world are increasingly recognising the importance of developing multimodal literacy in students under the contemporary digital communication environment. Dr Fei Victor Lim from the National Institute of Education at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, shared a multi-phased research project on multiliteracies in Singapore with around 140 participants on Zoom. Dr Lim explained how the data provided insights into the students’ perspectives on bridging their out-of-school literacy practices with what they are learning in school, and these helped inform the teacher’s design of multimodal literacy learning.



3. Multimodality and the Built Environment: Spatial Discourse Analysis (25 March 2021)

Professor Louse Ravelli from the School of the Arts and Media at the University of New South Wales, Australia, introduced *Spatial Discourse Analysis* and demonstrated its application in the context of museums. Speaking to around 110 participants on Zoom, Professor Ravelli explained how this approach is used in exhibits in museums to invite visitors to consider multiple possibilities and voices when reflecting on complex and multifaceted aspects of history. In this talk, Professor Ravelli highlighted the close relationship between the social practices of institutions such as museums and the design of the built environment.

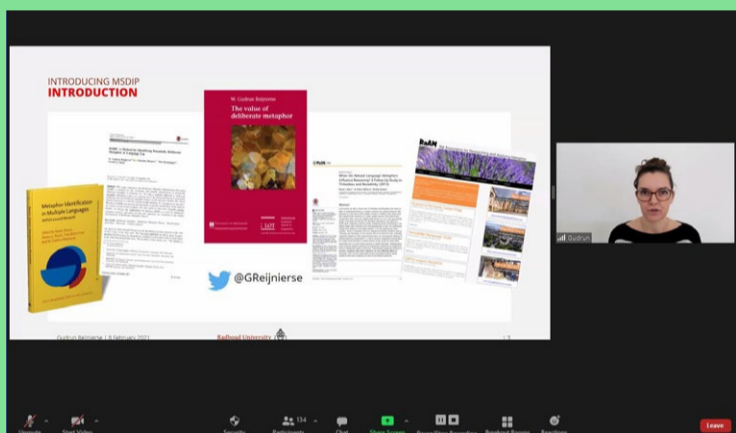


EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Joint Online Seminars by the Department of English and the Research Centre for Professional Communication in English (RCPCE)

1. Introducing MSDIP: A Method for Coding Source Domains in Metaphor Analysis (8 February 2021)

Dr Gudrun Reijnierse from the Centre for Language Studies at Radboud University, The Netherlands, delivered a seminar on Zoom to 160 participants and introduced a systematic method for source-domain coding in metaphor analysis. This method seeks to address the issue wherein metaphorical words could have multiple potential source domains that need to be identified. With examples taken from the *Corpus of Historical American English* and the *Corpus of Contemporary American English*, Dr Reijnierse illustrated situations in which the linguistic context or aspects related to genre or time of publication may restrict the range of potential source domains.



A recording of this seminar is available on the Department's YouTube channel:
<https://youtu.be/fpG5Gx0V-yY>

2. Global Business English in Asia (1 March 2021)

More and more scholars are contesting much of what is included in traditional Business English books as not reflecting real-life business. Dr Jane Lockwood, Adjunct Associate Professor of our Department, discussed with 150 participants on Zoom complaints of Business English teachers at the college level in Asia and described how course books are not tailored to the needs of Asian Business English students. Dr Lockwood introduced her latest publication, which takes authentic examples from real Asian business interactions to support the teaching of Business English in Asia. She hopes this new textbook can fill the current gap where non-Asian materials are used to teach Business English in Asia.



A recording of this seminar is available on the Department's YouTube channel:
<https://youtu.be/3Rkhrdcb0FQ>

Joint Online Seminar by the Department of English and the International Society for Gesture Studies - Hong Kong (ISGS-HK)

The study of gestures as an area of linguistics has flourished internationally, with research centres mushrooming around the globe. In 2019, the International Society for Gesture Studies - Hong Kong (ISGS-HK) was established as an affiliated Hub of the ISGS with the goal of bringing together people interested in gesture studies both in Hong Kong and throughout the wider region to share specialised knowledge and expand the global community of the ISGS.

Every semester, ISGS-HK organises talks by gesture scholars working across the region. The Department started the first joint online seminar with ISGS-HK in September 2020 to further expand the scope of its academic seminar. Due to the positive response received by the seminar held in semester one, a second seminar was held in the second semester.



A recording of this seminar is available on the Department's YouTube channel:
<https://youtu.be/kt0A4skWwzc>

From Language to Linguaging: Bringing Chant and Gesture into the Picture (3 February 2021)

Dr Fred Cummins from the School of Computer Science at University College Dublin, Ireland, argued that the conventional understanding of the term "language" cannot address the question of motivating inquiry into a profound change that occurred in pre-history, birthing modern humans and their activities. During this Zoom seminar, Dr Cummins introduced the term "linguaging" to 140 participants to highlight a range of coordinative and affiliative activities that produced the change we recognise in retrospect. Working from the empirical observation of chanting (joint speech) and its role in embodied ritual and performative practices, Dr Cummins illustrated one form of linguaging that has hitherto been neglected.



RESEARCH

Research Article Examines Errors in Reasoning about COVID-19



INFORMAL LOGIC
Reasoning and Argumentation in Theory and Practice

Home / Archives / Vol. 40 No. 4 (2020) / Articles

Good and Bad Reasoning about COVID-19

Louise Cummings
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22329/il.v40i4.6310>

Abstract

The Covid-19 pandemic presents argumentation theorists with an opportunity to reflect on the ways in which people, agencies and governments respond to the emergence of a new virus. Responses have revealed a range of judgements and decisions, not all of which are rationally warranted. This article will examine errors in reasoning, several of which have reduced the public's compliance with important health measures. This article will also analyse rationally warranted reasoning about Covid-19 employed by public health agencies. In examining instances of good and bad reasoning during the Covid-19 pandemic, we can begin to construct a taxonomy of arguments that facilitated and hindered individual and collective responses during this public health emergency.

A recent research article titled "Good and bad reasoning about COVID-19" in the journal *Informal Logic* by Professor Louise Cummings discussed instances of good and bad reasoning observed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Professor Cummings examined errors in reasoning in which people, agencies, and governments respond to the emergence of COVID-19. Their responses have revealed a range of judgements and decisions, not all of which are rationally warranted and several of which have reduced the public's compliance with important health measures. Professor Cummings also analysed the rationally warranted reasoning about COVID-19 employed by public health agencies. In examining instances of good and bad reasoning during the COVID-19 pandemic, we can begin to construct a taxonomy of arguments that have facilitated and hindered individual and collective responses during this public health emergency.



Read the full article:
<https://bit.ly/3no30ts>

Recent Research Publications

- Ahrens, K. (2021). Contesting territory via editorials in different varieties of English. *World Englishes*, 1-16. DOI: 10.1111/weng.12529
- Banegas, D. L. & **Consoli, S.** (2021). Initial English language teacher education: The effects of a module on teacher research. *Cambridge Journal of Education*, 1-17.
- Chen, L. & **Hu, G.** (2020). Surprise markers in applied linguistics research articles: A diachronic perspective. *Lingua*, 248.
- Curran, N. M.**, & Chesnut, M. (2021). English fever and coffee: Transient cosmopolitanism and the rising cost of distinction. *Journal of Consumer Culture*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1469540521990869>
- Hu, G., & **Xu, S. B.** (2020). Agency and responsibility: A linguistic analysis of culpable acts in retraction notices. *Lingua*, 247.
- Lopez-Ozieblo, R. (2021). Learning from a corpus of students' academic writing. *Revista Signos*, 54(106), 645-667.
- Tay, D. (2021). Automated lexical and time series modelling for critical discourse research: A case study of Hong Kong protest editorials. *Lingua*, 255, 103056.
- Wang, Y., **Feng, D.**, & Ho, W.Y.J. (2021). Identity, lifestyle, and face-mask branding: A social semiotic multimodal discourse analysis. *Multimodality and Society*, 2, 1-22. DOI: 10.1177/26349795211014809

STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS

Community Project by BA Student Selected as Outstanding Work by Students

A service-learning project by Kim Minju, recent graduate of our BA in English Studies for the Professions, was selected as one of the four feature stories of PolyU Outstanding Work by Students (OWS) under the category of Eradicating Poverty & Vulnerability. The project “Preparing anti-epidemic packs for the homeless” was carried out by Minju and her teammates during the COVID-19 pandemic while she was a Year 4 student.

Poverty eradication has been one of the most studied yet under-achieved goals of the modern era. During this pandemic, the world witnessed that the most vulnerable individuals do not have access to health care, lack necessary items to protect themselves from the virus, and are living in unhygienic and crowded conditions. Through this project, Minju learnt that there is much awareness that needs to be raised in communities.

The four feature stories of PolyU OWS were displayed in the OWS exhibition on the Podium floor of the Pao Yue-kong Library until the end of February 2021.



Minju shares her experience during the project in a video which is shown during the OWS exhibition in the Library.



The stories can also be accessed on the OWS website:
<https://ows.lib.polyu.edu.hk/>

Update PolyU Alumni Profile and Enjoy Great Benefits

PolyU will be celebrating its 85th Anniversary in 2022, and the Department would very much like to make use of this opportunity to re-engage and reconnect with our alumni. We would like to cordially invite you to come back to your alma mater and join us and your fellow classmates in celebrating and commemorating your many achievements. You can also recall the many positive experiences and moments you had with the Department and the many friendships you developed with your teachers and peers!

All alumni of the Department are invited to update their alumni profiles, which will help build a strong and healthy alumni network with the Department and PolyU. After updating their profiles, alumni with a PolyU Connect email account will get free access to MS Office 365 and 5TB of OneDrive storage.



Update now:
<https://alumportal.polyu.edu.hk/en-US/>