

# ENGLink

## SPRING 2022

### ISSUE



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# Alumnus and Student Shine in PolyU's 85th Anniversary Theme Song Lyric Contest

PolyU kicked off its 85th Anniversary celebrations in November 2021. As part of the celebratory activities, the University called for ideas from members of the PolyU community on 85th Anniversary theme song lyrics, videos, and souvenirs. The two winning entries for PolyU's 85th Anniversary Theme Song Lyric Contest were announced in January 2022, and the winners were our BA alumnus Paul Lee and our PhD student Joanna Chen.

The lyrics by Paul use "footprints in Hung Hom" as the theme. This theme reflects PolyU's place in history as the location of many significant events. These events now serve as footprints left behind by the many people who have walked through PolyU's red brick Hung Hom campus. Throughout the individual journeys of all these people, PolyU has been there alongside them, and regardless of distance and time, PolyU and its students have continued and will continue to pursue new knowledge and embrace both challenges and collaboration. Over the past 85 years, PolyU has contributed many new initiatives that have benefited humanity.

The lyrics by Joanna show appreciation of the devotion and earnestness of the PolyU community. Our hearts have been with PolyU throughout all the changes the University has faced over the past 85 years. Since its inception, PolyU has followed the motto "To learn and to apply, for the benefit of mankind". By building on the foundation and work of our predecessors, PolyU aspires to continue giving back to society. In the endless pursuit of this goal, the University hopes to fearlessly continue exploring new learning pathways in the many years to come.

The official lyrics of PolyU's 85th Anniversary Theme Song combines the lyrics from both Paul and Joanna. The video of the theme song can be viewed on PolyU's YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/a1t061wX4hU>.

PolyU's 85th Anniversary Theme Song Lyric Contest

**Winning entries:**

<p><b>紅磚足印</b> Lyricist: Paul Lee, Alumni, Department of English and Communication</p> <p>紅磚一角 有你我足印 紅磚屋之下 凝看古今 研學最新 不分遠近 旭日照 牽手笑善行</p> <p>紅磚一角 有你我足印 紅磚屋之下 凝看古今 力拓新知 新界開向 新挑戰 博學明思 慎言篤行 好學求真 逐破黑暗 星際傲翔 熾熾奉我心 眾力齊心 在香港之濱 教育才能 歷八十五載 開創新章 利人民</p>	<p><b>理大85周年-明理</b> Lyricist: Chen Zhuoan, PhD Student, Department of English and Communication</p> <p>風起雲湧 江水不休 八十五載風雲 未改我心 開物成務 明心為先 勵學利民 明辨篤行 以前人智慧 廣博我學識 用今日理想 回饋於社會 星河遙遠 無畏 探索未知幾多崎嶇 歲月悠悠 無懼 求學道路遍歷風霜 吾國吾民 志懷高遠 八十五載風雲 未改我心 紅樓深處 見證我心</p>
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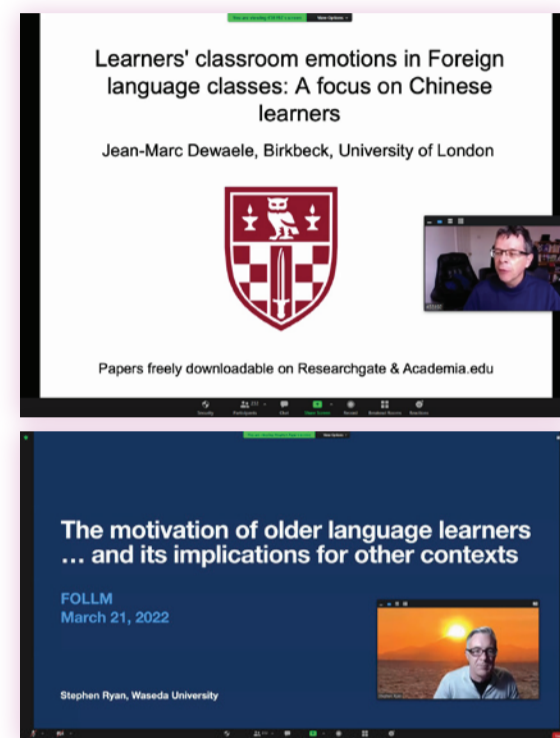
Paul (first row, left) and Joanna (first row, third from left) are invited to the PolyU 85th Anniversary Launch Ceremony as lyricists of the theme song.

# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

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## Joint Online Event by RCPCE and FOLLM (21 March 2022)

The Department's Research Centre for Professional Communication in English (RCPCE) and the Forum on Language Learning Motivation (FOLLM) organised a joint event that brought together two senior scholars from the field of Psychology of Language Education who shared insight into their recent research. Drawing on positive psychology, Professor Jean-Marc Dewaele from Birkbeck, University of London, United Kingdom, shared recent findings regarding how personality traits and the interaction of these traits with learner's positive (or negative) emotions shape language learning. This talk, ultimately, underscored the importance of the interactions between learners, teachers, and educational environment(s). In addition, Professor Stephen Ryan from Waseda University, Japan, brought together two somewhat unrelated aspects of language learning motivation: compulsory language education practices and older learners. This talk highlighted the need to pay serious attention to people who choose to learn languages in the later stages of their lives. In particular, this talk offered suggestions regarding what those who learn in compulsory educational settings can take away from the motivational experiences of "older" learners. Over 300 participants from different parts of the world took part in this online event.



The talks by Prof. Dewaele and Prof. Ryan attract a large audience.

## Departmental Online Seminars

### 1. What are formulaic expressions and how do we master them? (17 January 2022)



Dr Phoebe Lin from our Department delineated the scope of what are considered formulaic expressions (FEs) to around 170 participants on Zoom and explained why it is difficult for second language learners to master them. With a combination of four factors in play, the acquisition of FEs in classroom settings can be facilitated through a self-developed app, *IdiomsTube*, which provides students with a game-based learning experience and allows them to create a building sense of progress by watching videos. By utilising 41,973 English FEs collected from a previous *IdiomsTube* project, Dr Lin's new project aspires to develop the world's largest normative database of FEs and provides a fine-grained description of nine properties of FEs. With the aid of normative data, a subsequent learning experiment will be conducted to develop a learnability index for all FEs.

### 2. Dare to self-care: A challenge for personal and professional growth (8 February 2022)

Previous investigations have shown that language teachers are prone to undergoing anger, frustration, disappointment, and anxiety, but that they also benefit from emotions of happiness, pride, and delight. Professor Tammy Gregersen from the American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, addressed the emotional wellbeing of language teachers to about 110 participants on Zoom and described an array of emotions in teachers' professional lives from which wellbeing can be nurtured. Particular attention was given to exploring socio-emotional competence, the role of positive and negative emotions, emotional self-regulation, and how to combat negativity bias and harmful emotional labour through self-compassion. With these notions outlined, Prof. Gregersen presented a few proactive strategies that teachers may adopt to cope with stress and pursue meaningfulness in both careers and lives.



A recording of this seminar is available on the Department's YouTube channel:  
<https://youtu.be/xF3Mzsr-mLs>



# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

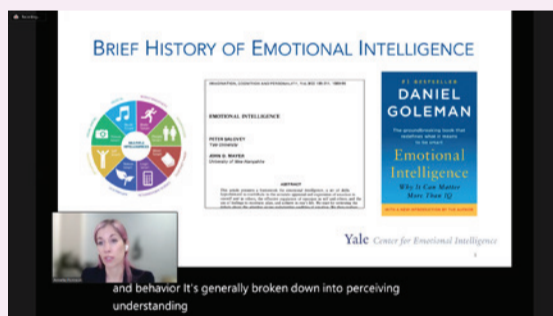
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## 3. Thinking about feelings: The development of emotional intelligence assessment (7 March 2022)

In the light of the ongoing debate in the field around the best way to operationalise and measure emotional intelligence (EI), Dr Annette Ponnock from the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, Yale University, United States, introduced a series of new assessments developed in the Center to measure adults' emotional perception, emotional understanding, and emotional regulation based on an ability-based approach. Each of these new measures contributes to the novel investigation of EI research in its focus on racial representation, language-based machine learning, and contextualized, branching situational judgment tasks. Dr Ponnock explained to 140 participants on Zoom the specific development of each of these tests, the validity of these measures, and the next steps as well as the applicability of these tests in educational and professional settings.



A recording of this seminar is available on the Department's YouTube channel:  
<https://youtu.be/Qf7P7HRl8TI>



## 4. (Applied) Corpus linguistics and explorations of workplace discourse (25 March 2022)

Applied corpus linguistics stresses the methodological attributes of corpora and involves the examination of public discourse by using corpus techniques to obtain novel understandings of how language is used and construed in specific contexts. Professor Eric Friginal from our Department shared his recent research activities in the exploration of aviation discourse with the aid of corpus methodology with 290 participants on Zoom. This research interest is embedded in his past research work in domains such as outsourced customer service call centres, healthcare, tourism and hospitality, global aviation, the international maritime industry, and talk in multi-cultural and multimodal workplaces. His theoretical and analytical framework emphasises the identification of discursive practices across socio-cultural structures and task dimensions of talk in these domains and addresses particularly speakers' understanding of identities, role relationships, and power dynamic at work. Prof. Friginal believes that if we could capture the patterns and nuances across registers, and across language backgrounds from corpora, we would be able to address workplace miscommunication with the more practical and precise solutions of pedagogical tools and textbooks



A recording of this seminar is available on the Department's YouTube channel:  
<https://youtu.be/cq5BflfJRwA>

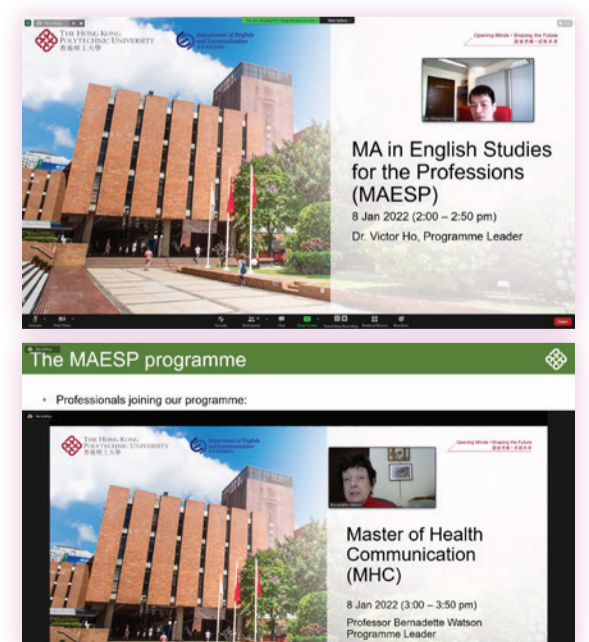


## PolyU Info Day for Taught Postgraduate Programmes (8 January 2022)

The event was held online this year, and the Department organised two info webinars for its MA in English Studies for the Professions (MAESP) and the Master of Health Communication (MHC) programmes. The MAESP programme provides students with a comprehensive and critical understanding of the theory and practice of English in educational and professional contexts, enabling them to become innovative and reflective professionals in a range of institutional settings. The MHC programme (subject to approval) provides students with the diverse practical knowledge and skills that are critical to healthcare management. The MHC will be offered via a fully online mode of delivery and instruction, which will provide more flexibility to students from different healthcare-related fields.

According to the PolyU Academic Registry, about 1,900 participants registered to join at least one programme webinar, and our two webinars were attended by more than 60 participants. Recordings of all programme webinars were uploaded to the PolyU Admissions Info Platform for Taught Postgraduate Programmes for access by the public.

Dr Victor Ho, Programme Leader of the MAESP, and Prof. Bernadette Watson, Programme Leader of the MHC, introduce the programmes to prospective students.

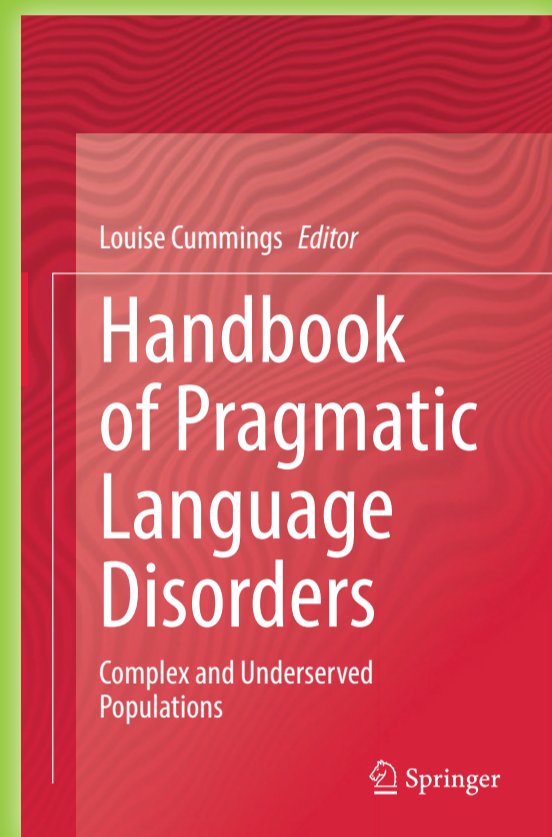


## New Edited Volume by Academic Staff on Pragmatic Language Disorders

A new volume titled *Handbook of Pragmatic Language Disorders* edited by the Department's Professor Louise Cummings is the first work to examine pragmatic language disorders of clients in complex and underserved populations. In chapters written by a range of experts, the unique pragmatic language skills of clients are examined, allowing for a broad overview. The text gives focus to client groups with complex cognitive and psychiatric problems and children and adults that have been underserved by clinical language services because of maltreatment and social exclusion. Pragmatic disorders are examined in children with sensory loss, children who have been exposed to HIV and substance abuse, and adults with Huntington's disease and other complex neurodegenerative pathologies. This Handbook is an essential reference for researchers and clinicians in speech-language pathology, linguistics, psychology, and education.



More information about the book:  
<https://bit.ly/3LZ42os>



## Recent Research Publications

Bao, J., & **Feng, D.** (2022). "Doing research is not beyond my reach": The reconstruction of College English teachers' professional identities through a domestic visiting program. *Teacher and Teaching Education*, 112(103648).

Tay, D. (2022). Metaphor types as strategies for teaching regression to novice learners. *Journal of Statistics and Data Science Education*, 30(1), 3-14.

Xiong, T., Li, Q., & **Hu, G.** (2022). Teaching English in the shadow: Identity construction of private English language tutors in China. *Discourse: Studies in the Cultural Politics of Education*, 43(1), 73-85. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01596306.2020.1805728>

Xu, S. B., & Hu, G. (2022). Non-author entities accountable for retractions: A diachronic and cross-disciplinary exploration of reasons for retraction. *Learned Publishing*, 35(2), 261-270. <https://doi.org/10.1002/leap.1445>

Zhong, Y., Wan, M., **Ahrens, K.**, & Huang C.-R., (2022). Sensorimotor norms for Chinese nouns and their relationship with orthographic and semantic variables. *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23273798.2022.2035416>

## BA Alumnus Won 2022 Outstanding Young Alumni Award in Entrepreneurial Achievement



Mr Freddy Law, a 2017 graduate from our BA (Hons) in Language Studies with Business, has been selected as the Department's 2022 Outstanding Young Alumni Award in Entrepreneurial Achievement.

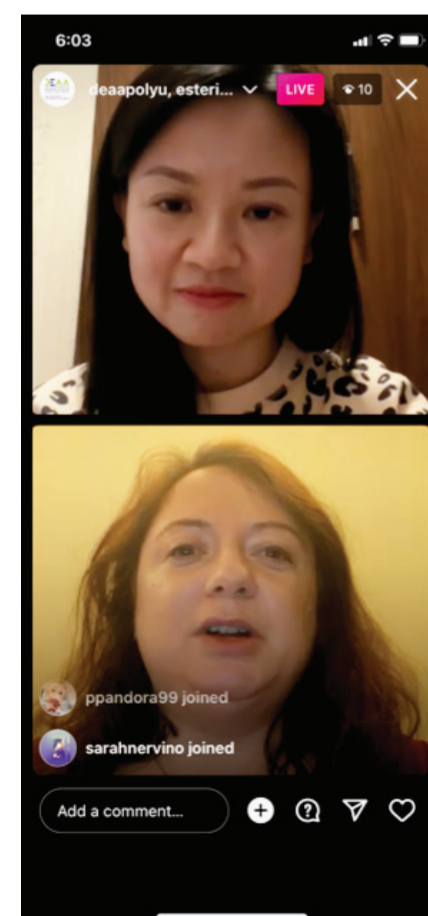
Freddy is currently the Group CEO of Storius, an outdoor audio guide and mobile application that allows visitors to learn the history behind places worth exploring. Storius secured startup funding from Cyberport and, as of 2022, operates in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Spain. Prior to becoming CEO, Freddy was the Director of Education for the Good Community Interest Company, an innovation consultancy, and was the CEO of Inter Cultural Education, the first company he founded.

Freddy is an Honorary Lecturer at the University of Hong Kong and is also a Non-Official Member of the Human Resource Planning Commission, chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration of the Hong Kong SAR Government, which aims to enhance and optimise Hong Kong's human capital. He is also an Advisor at AIESEC, a global platform that allows young people in Hong Kong and mainland China to explore and develop their leadership potential.

We are impressed by Freddy's decade-long dedication to making a positive impact on society via various educational initiatives. His innovation and entrepreneurial spirit will continue to make positive contributions here in Hong Kong and beyond. We would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Freddy!

## Alumni Association Holds the Second IG Live Chat

The Department of English Alumni Association (DEAA) organised its second Instagram live chat on 27 January after the great public response to the first one held in November 2021. The guest for the second chat was Dr Esterina Nervino, a 2018 PhD graduate from the Department. Dr Nervino is currently an Assistant Professor at the City University of Hong Kong where she holds a joint appointment with the Department of English and the Department of Marketing. Dr Nervino talked about her PhD study in PolyU and her career experiences in business and academia. Dr Nervino shared her belief that students should upskill themselves to build their personal brand and to be more competitive. When they graduate, students should try doing different types of work first to pinpoint their strengths and interests in the process. She also suggested fresh graduates should attend more networking events to meet professionals in the industries they are interested in.



The discussion about university life and career development during the chat between Dr Amy Suen (top), Chairperson of the DEAA, and Dr Esterina Nervino brings many helpful advice to the participants.