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“Tracking the Future: The Perception of Future and Aspirations of Hong  
Kong Youth”

《未來軌跡：香港年輕世代對將來的想像、視野、抱負》

Final Report

Submitted by

Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
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## **Preface**

The objectives of this study are as follows: (1) To investigate how Hong Kong youth assess the present situation by looking into their perceptions of future; (2) To depict the relation of (a) the factors that affect the perceived future, (b) the perceived future, and (c) the actions in response to the perceived future. In particular, the research highlights that knowing how the youths perceive the future enable us to understand the relation of the macro environment and the behavior of youths; (3) To articulate the public discourses related to the sentiments of the youths to their actual situation. It enables us to assess the strengths and influences of respective public discourse in the public sphere; (4) In a long run, it plans to have the perceptions of Hong Kong's future as the indicators to observe the attitudinal changes of Hong Kong's youth longitudinally

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All opinions and analyses expressed in this report are those of the research team and in no way represent those of the PICO or the HKIAPS.

# **Executive Summary**

## **Part 1: Abstract of the Research**

### Introduction

In recent years, Hong Kong youth has always been put at the centre of discussion. Apart from their active participation in social movements, youth, which accounts of nearly 30% of the total population, is going to become the major workforce of Hong Kong after the retirement of the baby boomers. Many studies have shown that the values upheld by youth and their previous generation are fundamentally different. While youth is actively exploring their future and seeking changes, society is developing rapidly to catch up the pace of youth. To raise public awareness of the development of youth and encourage the government to implement policies that can meet the youth's expectation, we implement this study to explore young people's imaginations, visions and aspirations of their future. We hope that future economic and social reforms can allow us to build a better future with youth.

### Objectives

The objectives of this study are as follows: (1) To investigate how Hong Kong youth assess the present situation by looking into their perceptions of future; (2) To depict the relation of (a) the factors that affect the perceived future, (b) the perceived future, and (c) the actions in response to the perceived future. In particular, the research highlights that knowing how the youths perceive the future enable us to understand the relation of the macro environment and the behavior of youths; (3) To articulate the public discourses related to the sentiments of the youths to their actual situation. It enables us to assess the strengths and influences of respective public discourse in the public sphere; (4) In a long run, it plans to have the perceptions of Hong Kong's future as the indicators to observe the attitudinal changes of Hong Kong's youth longitudinally.

### Research Methodology

This study adopted both quantitative and qualitative research methods to understand young people's perception of future. We collected data through a territory-wide mobile phone survey, the survey dated from August to September 2018 and the target population were Hong Kong residents aged 15 to 30. We interviewed 803 people and

the response rate was 37%. We also conducted eight focus group interviews from May to June 2018, targeting Hong Kong residents aged 15 to 30. Sixty-three interviewees were divided into eight groups. The first group and the second group were for university students, the third group was for secondary six students, the fourth group was for associate degree students, the fifth group was for the working adults with a university degree, and the sixth group was for working adults without a university degree, the seventh group was for full-time professional, and the eighth group was for youth with foreign experiences (stay more than six months in the same country abroad because of study and work reasons).

### Research Findings

#### (a) Personal and Family Life

- ✧ Respondents were satisfied with their current lives. The average life satisfaction rate was 6.11 with a standard deviation of 1.879 (0 to 10 points, 0 means very unsatisfied, and 10 means very satisfied).
- ✧ Respondents were optimistic about their future. The average perception of future score was 6.05 with a standard deviation of 1.820 (0 to 10 points, 0 means very pessimistic, and 10 means very optimistic). Most of the respondents (53.8%) believed that their lives five years later would be as happy as their present lives.
- ✧ Respondents were also quite optimistic about the future of their families. Most of the respondents (55.1%) believed that their family's living condition five years later would be improved.
- ✧ More than half of the respondents (55%) found that they could easily get help from their network during difficult times, it implies that most young people maintain good relationships with family members, relatives and friends.
- ✧ We identified factors that influenced young people's perception of future. Most people (63.8%) believed that salary was important for their future, 50.5% found ideal job important, 49.5% found education level important, 49.2% found investment skill important, and 35.1% found property important. However, none of the above personal determinants affected their political participation, which means that young people tend to achieve their ambitions through their own struggles and do not prefer to solve their problems through political participation.

## (b) Education, Career and Upward Mobility

- ✧ Some interviewees (44.9%) believed that education was the most important means for them to move upwards. Majority of the respondents (65.7% and 66.2%) agreed that they could work hard to improve their financial situation and quality of life. Respondents were positive towards education, career and upward mobility. They were still confident that they could move upwards through hard work.
- ✧ Respondents who believed that education level and ideal job were important to their future would be more optimistic about their future. We believe that these respondents who regard educational level and an ideal job as their personal goals are more aware of how to achieve a better future through hard work. For example, they will strive to achieve excellent academic results, or they tend to find jobs with great career prospects.
- ✧ Most of the working adults (67.3%) were optimistic about their future career development. Most college students (57%) were also optimistic about landing ideal jobs after graduation. However, both non-degree programme students and high school students were uncertain about whether they could enter the university after graduation, which reflected the fierce competition in degree programs.
- ✧ The optimism of working adults on career development greatly influenced their optimism about their family future, personal future and happiness. Since working adults would be responsible for the future of their families and themselves, their career development would be very critical.
- ✧ According to the focus group findings, interviewees found the society “fast-changing”, “stressful” and “unstable”. They tended to avoid “risk-taking” and preferred to “play-safe”. Although they still believed that hard work would pay off, they found that developing adequate skills and knowledge, and maintaining network and connections were also key to success.
- ✧ We have observed that many interviewees are struggling between pursuing their interest and maintaining a stable life. The career path to maintain a stable life is usually clear, stable, safe and mainstream. Young people could complete “the stable path to success” through achieving outstanding results in public

examinations, obtaining a “useful” degree from a well-known university, and finding a good job like being a professional or civil servant. Many young people believe that this practical “path to success” could help them to obtain security in this risky and insecure world.

- ✧ Some interviewees were interested in becoming a civil servant because of “high wage”, “good welfare” and “promising prospects”. The career path of civil servants is very stable and predictable, as they rarely need to work overtime, they can strike a balance between work and life, and develop personal interests during their leisure time. At the same time, the job provides a clear career path for young people who do not have the opportunity to earn a professional degree or achieve their personal goals. However, some interviewees believed that the work of civil servants was dull and repetitive. They also found the work of civil servants failed to broaden their horizons and enhanced their competitiveness. Young people who value stability and security tend to choose jobs with clear career paths, yet some young people realise the importance of mobility and flexibility in today's society and tend to maintain their competitiveness through life-long learning.

#### (c) Housing

- ✧ Most of the respondents (54.7%) believed that home ownership could help them to accumulate wealth for their future, while only some of the respondents (35.8% and 32.3%) believed that home ownership was the prerequisite of family formation and life improvement. More than half of the respondents (50.9%) currently did not have a property and not capable of buying one, estimated that they would not be capable of buying a flat in the next 5 to 10 years. It implies that most of the respondents are pessimistic about home ownership.
- ✧ Due to high property prices, most of the respondents who participated in the focus group interviewee felt that it was very difficult or impossible for them to buy a flat. Most people hold the attitude of “good to have one, but not a must”. However, they all acknowledged that home ownership could provide them with stability and security.
- ✧ Most of the respondents currently lived with their parents. Most of them were satisfied with the current situation, but some respondents, especially the ones with foreign experiences, found moving back home difficult. They preferred

living alone because they often had conflicts with their family members.

- ✧ Most of the respondents preferred buying a property instead of renting one, mainly because they found that renting a property was like helping others to buy a home. Most of the respondents believed that they would buy a home when they decided to get married and form a family.

#### (d) Emigration

- ✧ 46.1% of the survey respondents indicated that they would emigrate if they had the opportunity.
- ✧ Most focus group participants pointed out that they were not interested in emigration, but they would like to experience living and working abroad. They believed that living and working in a foreign country could broaden their horizons and enhanced their competitiveness.

#### (e) Financial Literacy

- ✧ Only 18% of the survey respondents believed that investment could replace education and helped people to improve their standard of living.
- ✧ Focus group respondents believed that improving their investment skills very critical. They regarded investment as an alternative means to accumulate wealth and generated income, enabling them to achieve “financial freedom” and improve their quality of life.

#### (f) Hong Kong Future

- ✧ Most of the respondents (67.2%) did not participate in any political events in the past 12 months, but it does not mean that they do not care about politics. 63.1% of the respondents spent more than one hour a day on the Internet and social media to receive current and public affairs information on average, while 39.3% of the respondents spent more than one hour a day on traditional media to receive current and public affairs information on average.
- ✧ Respondents believed that (1) employment opportunities (67.7%), (2) general price levels (73.2%), (3) property prices (76.3%), (4) freedom (66.1%) and (5)

democracy (61.8%) were all important social determinants that affected their future. Among the five factors, democracy had the greatest impact on young people's perception of future, which explained young people's deep concern about universal values like democracy.

- ✧ Although respondents were concerned about employment opportunities, general price levels and property prices, these factors did not affect their political participation. Yet their emphasis on freedom and democracy had greatly influenced their political participation. Such finding re-confirms that young people do not tend to improve their personal well-being through political participation, but tend to enhance social well-being through political participation.
- ✧ Most of the respondents believed that (45.6% and 52.8%) Hong Kong's economic situation and quality of life would be similar to the current situation in the next five years, but most respondents believed that (62.2% and 56.7%) Hong Kong's political situation and judicial independence in the next five years would further deteriorate. This shows that most respondents are pessimistic about Hong Kong's political development and the judicial system.
- ✧ Respondents believed that the four development directions mentioned above were all very important in determining respondents' perception of future Hong Kong. Judicial independence was most influential on respondents' perception of future and also their political participation. The result once again confirms youth's concern about universal values.
- ✧ Respondents were pessimistic about the future of Hong Kong. The average perception of future score was 4.42 points with standard deviation of 1.902 (0 to 10 points, 0 means very pessimistic, and 10 means very optimistic). Nearly half of the respondents (49%) rated 0-4 points. Youth's pessimism about the future of Hong Kong would significantly affect their political participation, as young people tend to express their dissatisfaction about society through political participation.
- ✧ Most focus group respondents were pessimistic about Hong Kong's political situation. They believed that since the umbrella movement, the political situation had become increasingly frustrating, witnessing the deterioration of Hong Kong's core values. Most of the respondents felt “numb”, “hopeless” and

“powerlessness” about the current political situation. They believed that the government would not listen to their demands and changed the status quo. Some interviewees who were very active in social movements had stated that they would not participate in any social movement in the future.

- ✧ We have observed that young people tended to bridge their future with the future of society. If they were more optimistic about their future, they would also be more optimistic about Hong Kong’s future. We, therefore, suggest that the government devote more resources to improve different dimensions of young people's quality of life.

## **Part 2: Layman summary on policy implications and recommendations**

This policy research aims to explore Hong Kong youth’s perception of future. According to our research findings, young people are dissatisfied with the current political system. We believe that this issue deserves our attention, but it is more important to propose practical policy recommendations to help young people to achieve their ambitions. We are convinced that once the government can solve the actual demands of young people, like their aspiration of career development and financial management in short or medium term, it will help to re-build their trust in the government and political system. In the following section, we will illustrate seven practical and feasible policy recommendations.

### **(a) Facilitate the Youth Hostel Scheme to Increase the Supply of Transitional Housing for Young People**

Most interviewees believed it was impossible for them to purchase a flat due to the sky-high property prices. To help young people to achieve their dreams of home ownership, we suggest that the government should provide more transitional housing for youth in need through the implementation of the Youth Hostel Scheme. The government proposed this plan on 2011 Policy Address, aiming to provide subsidies for NGOs to build youth hostels on their land and provide short-term independent living space for young people (Wan, 2018). They can utilise their time to save money and prepare for future flat acquirement. In the next few years, the construction of six youth hostels will be completed, providing approximately 2,800 places for young people. We believe that the number of hostel places fail to meet young people’s demand for transitional housing. We hope that the government can continue to collaborate with more NGOs to build more youth hostels. The government should

also ensure that the youth hostels are developed and operated in accordance with the original policy objectives. In addition to the youth hostels, we recommend that the government should continue to look for developable lands and steadily increase the housing supply.

(b) Integrate Financial Education in the Hong Kong Secondary School Curriculum

We observed that many young people were interested in investment, but most believed that they were not capable to manage their financial situation properly. We recommend that the government should consider integrating financial education into the secondary school curriculum so that students can learn more about financial management in an early stage of life. We believe that financial management is a basic skill that young people must master. At present, young people can access various information about financial products from different channels. If young people are not careful enough, they may fall into financial crisis due to the misuse of financial products. We believe that while the government incorporates financial education into the secondary school curriculum, they have to provide adequate training for teachers and develop online resources to help students to learn and understand the importance of financial literacy.

(c) Facilitate Career and Life Planning Education in Hong Kong's Secondary Schools

According to our research findings, youth was facing an increasing number of challenges in making the transition from education to work. Some interviewees stated that they failed to determine their career path even after they graduated from university. Many high school students thought that entering university is their only way out. They rarely explored other ways; many of them eventually chose to study higher diplomas or associate degree merely to delay their employment. At present, the government provides the Career and Life Planning Grant to secondary schools yearly to strengthen schools' development on life planning education and provide better quality career guidance services for students. However, the government has not been able to provide sufficient training for teachers, which has led some teachers to reflect that they do not have the ability and confidence to counsel students (Wong, 2017). We believe that the government should organise different courses, seminars and workshops to develop teachers' skills in this area. We also hope that the government can integrate life planning education into the school curriculum so that students, in the process of learning, can think about their career development, they can better equip themselves and face future challenges.

(d) Introduce More Non-Means-Tested Welfare Schemes to Alleviate the Prohibitive Effects of the High Cost of Living on Hong Kong Youth

We believe that the government can implement more non-means-tested welfare schemes to alleviate the prohibitive effects of the high living costs on youth. Although young people are highly susceptible to changing economic circumstances, they are often excluded from the government's strict and condition-based welfare system. We believe that the non-means-tested transport subsidy scheme introduced by the government in 2019 (HKSAR Government Press Release, 2018) is a good subsidy scheme that can help young people to reduce their living expenses.

(e) Organise Internship, Exchange, and Placement Programs Through Tertiary Institutions and NGOs

Many young people are interested in working and experiencing life abroad. We recommend that the government should work with universities and NGOs to organise more overseas internships and exchange programs. To encourage Hong Kong youth to develop their career in the Greater Bay Area, the government can also work with enterprises to arrange internships for young people. In the long run, their “China Experiences” will help to improve their perception of the Mainland China.

(f) Promote the Bilateral Working Holiday Scheme and Organise more Sharing Sessions

The government has organised the Bilateral Working Holiday Scheme since 2001 to provide more opportunities for young people to learn about the culture and development of other foreign countries. Over 85,000 Hong Kong youth have participated in the program over the years. Many young people may be deterred from joining the scheme because they are worried that they cannot adapt to different ways of life in foreign countries. We suggest that the government organise more sharing sessions, inviting young people who have participated in working holiday to share their experiences with young people who are interested in participating in the program.

(g) Promote Working Opportunities in China, Particularly the Greater Bay Area

The Greater Bay Area is developing fast. We suggest that the government should

promote working opportunities in Mainland China to allow young people to benefit from the development of the Greater Bay Area. Hong Kong youth is not familiar with the Greater Bay Area and may not be prepared to develop their career there. Therefore, we suggest that the government can enhance young people's understanding of the opportunities and the overall plan of the Greater Bay Area through formal and informal education. The government should actively encourage young people to work in Mainland China. If young people can develop their career there, they can achieve their aspirations.

## 行政摘要

### 第一部分：報告撮要

#### 簡介

近年，青年一直是香港社會討論的焦點。除了因為他們積極參與社會運動外，亦因為約佔總人口近 30% 的青年，將在本港嬰兒潮一代退休後，成為社會的主要勞動力。多項研究顯示，青年與上一代在價值觀上存在本質上的差異。例如，青年作為網絡世代，對於資訊、組織與產權的看法與上一代的看法十分不同；在就業方面，青年對於工作自由與彈性的追求，亦非上一代能夠理解。在青年積極探索將來，尋求改變的同時，社會亦為了追上青年的步伐而急速發展。為了提高公眾對於青年發展的關注，並鼓勵政府實施能夠符合青年期望的政策，這項研究旨在追蹤未來軌跡，探究青年對未來的想象、視野與抱負，並藉此了解他們對於自身和社會的看法。透過實施社會及經濟改革，我們將與青年共建更美好的未來。

#### 目的

本次研究旨在了解青年如何透過演繹自身對未來的看法去評估現狀。通過分析研究結果，我們希望能夠了解（1）影響未來發展的因素；（2）預想的未來發展與（3）應對未來的行動，及這三者之間的關係。藉此，我們可以理解宏觀環境與青年行為的關係，並把他們的觀點與社會的實際狀況聯繫起來。研究結果有助我們透過青年的角度了解現時政策與施政的優點與缺點，並重新探討有關政策與施政對青年的影響。我們希望青年對未來的看法能夠成為觀察他們態度轉變的縱向指標。

#### 研究方法

本研究採用定量與定性兩種研究方法去了解青年對於未來的看法。我們以電腦隨機方法，抽出流動電話作代表性樣本，調查受訪者意見，調查日期為 2018 年 8 月至 9 月，訪問對象是 15 至 30 歲的香港居民，我們最終成功訪問了 803 人，調查的成功回應率是 37%。是次研究亦進行了八次焦點小組討論，調查日期為 2018 年 5 月至 6 月，訪問對象也是 15 至 30 歲的香港居民。63 位受訪者被分為八組：第一、二組為大學生，第三組為中六學生，第四組為副學士學生，第五組為有大學學位的全職人士，第六組為沒有大學學位的全職人士，第七組為全職專業人士，第八組為有外國經驗（因為留學與工作等原因在國外同一國家逗留超過六個月）的青年。

## 研究結果

### (a) 個人與家庭生活

- ◇ 受訪者對他們的生活現況感到滿意，生活滿意度平均分為 6.11 分，標準差為 1.879 (0 至 10 分，0 分為非常不滿意，10 分為非常滿意)。
- ◇ 受訪者對自己的未來感到樂觀，對未來觀感的平均分為 6.05 分，標準差為 1.820 (0 至 10 分，0 分為非常不樂觀，10 分為非常樂觀)。大部分受訪者 (53.8%)認為他們五年後的生活與現在的生活一樣快樂。
- ◇ 受訪者對其家庭的未來也相當樂觀，大部分受訪者(55.1%)認為他們五年後的家庭生活狀況將會有所改善。
- ◇ 超過一半的受訪者 (55%) 認為在生活遇到困難時，他們容易從自身人際網絡中獲得幫助，這表示大部分青年與家人，親戚與朋友保持著良好關係。
- ◇ 我們在研究中辨別了會影響青年對未來生活看法的因素。最多人 (63.8%) 認為薪金對於他們的未來生活重要，50.5%的人認為理想的工作重要，49.5%的人認為教育水平重要，49.2%認為投資技能重要及 35.1%認為房產重要。然而，以上的個人決定因素均沒有影響青年人的政治參與，這意味著青年人傾向透過自己奮鬥達成個人抱負，並不傾向透過政治參與解決自身的困境。

### (b) 學業，職業與向上流動

- ◇ 部分受訪者(44.9%)認為教育是青年向上流動的最重要途徑。大多數受訪者 (65.7%及 66.2%) 認同他們可以憑努力改善他們的經濟狀況與生活質素。受訪者對於學業、職業與向上流動三方面都抱持積極態度，他們仍然有信心可以透過努力學習和工作來提高向上流動的機會。
- ◇ 研究發現，認為教育程度與理想工作對未來生活十分重要的受訪者，會對未來抱持較樂觀的態度。我們認為這些把學業與理想工作當作個人目標的受訪者較為清楚如何透過努力實現美好將來，例如他們會努力取得優異的學業成績，或是會尋找一份擁有前景的工作。
- ◇ 大部分的在職青年 (67.3%) 對於他們未來的職業發展抱持樂觀態度，大部分大學生 (57%) 亦對畢業後找到理想工作感到樂觀。然而，非學位學生與高中生均對於能否在畢業後考進大學感到不確定，這反映學位課程的競爭是

十分激烈的。

- ◇ 在職青年對於事業發展的樂觀態度很大程度地影響他們對於未來家庭、生活和幸福的樂觀程度。由於在職青年需要對家庭與個人未來負責，所以事業發展對他們而言尤其重要，他們亦因此需要面對更多困難與挫折。
- ◇ 根據焦點小組的調查結果，一般受訪者都會認為社會「變化快」、「壓力大」及「不穩定」，他們傾向避免「冒險」，著重「謹慎」。雖然他們仍然相信努力會得到回報，但他們亦發現培養與職業掛鈎的技能與知識，以及積極發展人脈亦是成功的要訣。
- ◇ 我們觀察到不少受訪者在追求興趣與維持穩定生活兩者間掙扎不斷。維持穩定生活的職業路徑通常是清晰，穩定，安全與主流的。在公開考試中取得優異成績，從知名大學得到「有用」的學位，並找到如專業人士或公務員等好工作，就能完成「穩定的成功之路」。不少青年認為這條實在的「成功之路」能夠幫助他們在這個危機處處的世界中尋找到一絲安穩與安全感。
- ◇ 不少人有志成為公務員，因為「人工高」、「福利好」及「有前景」。公務員的職業路徑十分穩定及可預見，因為甚少需要加班，他們能夠在工作與生活之間取得平衡，並在閒時發展個人興趣。同時，這份工作亦為沒有機會獲得專業學位或實現個人目標的青年提供明確的職業路向。然而，有些受訪者認為公務員的工作沉悶重複，亦認為公務員的工作未能夠開闊他們的眼界和提高他們的競爭力。重視穩定性與安全感的青年較傾向選擇有明確職業路徑的工作，但亦有一些青年意識到流動性與靈活性在當今社會的重要性，傾向透過終身學習去保持其競爭力。

### (c) 房屋

- ◇ 大多數受訪者（54.7%）認為置業能夠幫助他們為未來累積財富，而只有部分受訪者（35.8%和 32.3%）認為置業是成家立室與改善生活的首要條件。超過一半的受訪者（50.9%）現時未有物業且沒有能力置業，他們估計自身在未來 5 至 10 年都沒有能力置業。由此可見，大部分受訪者對於置業抱持悲觀態度。
- ◇ 由於房價高企，大部分參與焦點小組討論的受訪者都認為置業十分困難，甚至覺得不可能。對於置業，大部分人抱持「有就好，沒有都可以」的態度。然而，他們都認為置業能為他們帶來穩定與安全感。

- ◇ 大部分受訪者目前與父母居住，他們大多對現況感到滿意，但有一些從外國回流的受訪者十分不適應回家居住的生活。不少人因為經常與家人發生衝突，而傾向獨自生活。
- ◇ 大多數受訪者傾向置業而非租住物業，因為他們覺得租住物業如同幫助別人（業主）置業。大部分受訪者認為他們會在結婚及組織家庭的時候置業。

#### (d) 移民

- ◇ 在調查中，46.1%的受訪者表示如果有機會，他們會選擇移民。
- ◇ 大多數焦點小組的參加者指出他們對於移民的興趣不大，但他們很想嘗試到國外生活與工作。他們認為在外國生活與工作的經驗，可以開闊他們的視野，並提高其競爭力。

#### (e) 理財

- ◇ 只有小部分的受訪者（18%）認為投資能夠取代一般教育，幫助人們提高生活水平。
- ◇ 焦點小組受訪者認為提升投資技術對他們而言十分重要。他們認為投資能夠幫助他們累積財富與創造被動收入，讓他們實現「財務自由」，並提高生活質素。

#### (f) 香港未來

- ◇ 大多數受訪者（67.2%）在過去一年並沒有參與任何政治運動，但這並不意味著他們不關心時政。63.1%的受訪者平均每天花費超過一小時在互聯網及社交媒體上接收時事與公共事務的資訊，而39.3%的受訪者亦平均每天花費超過一小時在傳統媒介接受時事與公共事務的資訊。
- ◇ 受訪者認為就業機會（67.7%），物價水平（73.2%），樓價（76.3%），自由（66.1%）及民主（61.8%）這五個社會決定因素對於他們的未來而言都十分重要。在五個因素中，民主對青年對未來看法的影響最大，印證了青年對民主等普世價值的重視。
- ◇ 雖然受訪者重視就業機會、物價水平與樓價對他們將來的影響，但以上因素並不會影響他們的政治參與。然而，青年對於自由與民主的重視則很大程度

地影響了他們的政治參與。這一發現印證了青年不傾向透過政治參與改善個人福祉，但傾向透過政治參與謀求社會福祉。

- ◇ 大多數受訪者認為（45.6%和 52.8%）香港未來五年的經濟狀況及生活質素將與現況相若，但普遍受訪者認為（62.2%和 56.7%）香港未來五年的政治狀況與司法獨立將會進一步惡化。由此可見，普遍受訪者對於香港的政治發展與司法制度抱持悲觀態度。
- ◇ 受訪者認為以上提及的四個發展方向對其對香港未來的看法有重要影響，司法獨立在四者當中對受訪者對未來看法的影響最深，亦最能影響他們的政治參與。這個結果與前文互相呼應，再一次印證青年對普世價值的關注。
- ◇ 受訪者對於香港的未來感到悲觀，對未來觀感的平均分為 4.42 分，標準差為 1.902(0 至 10 分, 0 分為非常悲觀, 10 分為非常樂觀)。近半受訪者(49%) 給予了 0 至 4 分。青年對香港未來的悲觀程度將顯著影響他們的政治參與，因為青年傾向通過政治參與來表達他們對社會的不滿。
- ◇ 大部分焦點小組受訪者對香港的政治前景感到悲觀。他們認為，自雨傘運動後，香港的政治狀況越發令人沮喪，香港核心價值的惡化亦越趨嚴重。大多數受訪者對當前政局感到「麻木」、「灰心」及「無能為力」。他們認為政府不會聆聽他們的訴求，而他們亦無能力改變現狀。一些曾經非常積極參與社會運動的受訪者明言不會再參與任何社會運動。
- ◇ 透過是次研究，我們發現青年會把自己的未來與社會的未來連繫在一起，如果他們對自己的未來更樂觀，他們亦會對香港的未來更樂觀。因此，我們建議政府投入更多資源從各方面改善青年的生活質素。

## 第二部分：政策建議

是次研究旨在探討香港青年對未來的展望，正如研究結果顯示，青年對現時的政治制度確實有不少不滿。我們認為這個問題值得重視，但更重要的是提出切實可行的政策建議去幫助青年達成他們的抱負。我們深信，一旦政府能夠在短期或中期內，解決青年在職業發展與理財等方面的實際訴求，將可以提升他們對於政府和政治制度的信任度。因此，我們在此提供七個實用且可行的政策建議供政府參考。

(a) 積極推行青年宿舍計劃，為青年提供更多過渡性房屋

大部分受訪青年認為過高的樓價與租金讓渴望成家立室的他們無計可施。為了幫助青年達成置業夢，我們建議政府通過推行青年宿舍計劃，為有需要的青年提供過渡性房屋。政府早已在 2011 年的施政報告提出此計劃，旨在資助非政府組織在他們現有的土地上興建青年宿舍，為青年提高短期的獨立生活空間，讓他們能夠利用這段時間儲蓄，為置業作準備。未來數年，將有六間青年宿舍陸續落成，為青年提供約 2,800 個宿位。我們認為這個數目無法滿足青年對於過渡性房屋的需求。我們希望政府能夠繼續與不同非政府組織合作，興建更多青年宿舍，亦希望政府在青年宿舍落成後確保青年宿舍按照原定的政策目標發展與運作。除了青年宿舍外，我們建議政府繼續尋找可發展土地，穩步增加整體住房供應。

(b) 把理財教育納入中學課程

是次研究發現很多青年對投資很有興趣，但大部分人認為自己不懂理財，沒有能力妥善管理自己的財務狀況。我們建議政府考慮把理財教育納入中學課程，讓學生可以提早認識理財。我們相信理財是青年必須掌握的基本技能，現時青年能從不同途徑接觸到種種有關金融產品的資訊。然而，青年若稍有不慎，便有可能會因為錯誤使用金融產品而陷入財務危機。我們認為政府在把財務教育納入中學課程的同時，需要為教師提供培訓，並開發在線資源與應用程式，輔助學生學習，讓他們從中理解到理財的重要性。

(c) 在中學加強生涯規劃教育及升學就業輔導

是次研究結果顯示青年從校園過渡到職場的過程面對著不少障礙。一些受訪者表示他們即使在大學畢業的時候，亦未能確定他們的職業路徑。很多高中生認為進入大學是他們的唯一出路，在學時甚少探索其他出路，導致他們畢業後選擇透過攻讀高級文憑或副學士等課程去延遲就業。現時政府每年均向中學提供生涯規劃津貼，加強學校發展生涯規劃教育並向更多學生提供升學就業輔導。然而，現時政府未能為教師提供足夠培訓，導致部分教師反映自己沒有足夠能力與信心去輔導學生。我們認為政府可以舉辦不同的課程，研討會，講座及工作坊培養教師在此範疇的技能。此外，我們亦希望政府能夠把生涯規劃教育融入學校課程，讓學生能夠在學習的過程中思考如何發展自己的事業，讓他們能更好地裝備自己，面對未來的挑戰。

(d) 推行更多免入息審查的津貼計劃，舒緩青年的日常開支

我們認為政府可推行更多免入息審查的津貼計劃，減輕居高不下的生活成本對青

年的影響。儘管青年很容易受到經濟環境變化的影響，但他們很多時候都被排除在政府嚴格的福利制度外。我們認為政府從 2019 年起推行的免入息審查交通津貼計劃，就是一個能夠有助青年減低生活開支的的津貼計劃。

(e) 透過大學與非政府組織推行更多海外實習及交流計劃

研究發現，很多青年有興趣到國外工作與體驗生活。我們建議政府與大學及非政府組織合作，推行更多海外實習及交流計劃。為了鼓勵香港青年到大灣區發展，政府亦可以與企業合作，為青年安排實習。長遠而言，青年的內地經驗將有助改善他們對內地的觀感。

(f) 積極推行工作假期計劃，舉辦更多分享會

政府從 2001 年起舉辦工作假期計劃，為青年提供更多了解其他國家文化和發展的機會，多年來已經有超過 85,000 名香港青年參與了此計劃。我們認為青年能夠透過此計劃獲得國外工作與生活的體驗。很多青年可能會因為擔心不能夠適應國外生活而對工作假期卻步。因此，我們建議政府舉辦更多與工作假期有關的分享會，邀請曾經參與工作假期的青年向有志參與計劃的青年分享經驗，促進雙方的交流，讓青年在參加工作假期時更有信心。

(g) 為青年提供更多內地（尤其是大灣區）的就業機會

粵港澳大灣區的發展一日千里，我們建議政府為青年提供更多內地的就業機會，讓他們能夠受惠於大灣區的發展。現時，大部分香港青年並不了解大灣區，亦未必有足夠的心理預備與能力到大灣區發展事業，因此我們建議政府可以通過正規和非正規教育的渠道提高青年對於大灣區的發展機遇及整個計劃的認識和理解。正如前文所述，政府應積極鼓勵青年到內地就業，若然青年在內地的發展順利，他們亦可以在當地實現他們的抱負。

## **1. Introduction and Objectives**

The issues that concern Hong Kong's youth are widely discussed for two main reasons. On one hand, in recent years, young people have been highly involved in incidents such as the Umbrella Movement. On the other hand, when the baby-boomer generation in Hong Kong retires, youth (i.e., aged 16–35 years), which comprises almost 30% of the population, will be the main production force in the foreseeable future.

Several previous studies revealed that the attitudes and values held by young people are intrinsically different from those of the previous generations. For instance, because they are the “Net Generation,” which is strongly embedded in the Internet era, their views of information, traditional organisation, and property rights are distinct from those of previous generations. Moreover, because they are used to contemporary employment styles, such as freelancing and flexible employment, their attitudes toward career inspirations may not be easily understood by seniors.

The attitudes of youth are changing, and this generation is eager to explore new paths to achieve their aspirations. However, is our society also changing in correspondence with the new generation? In order to raise public awareness and encourage policy initiatives regarding social change to accommodate the aspirations of Hong Kong's youth, we must first understand their perception of both themselves and society. Knowing youth means knowing the future. This proposal is aimed at performing the baseline study “Tracking the Future.” Through understanding the perception of future among the youth in Hong Kong, social and economic reforms could be implemented to ensure a better future for our society.

The objectives of this study are as follows: (1) To investigate how Hong Kong youth assess the present situation by looking into their perceptions of future; (2) To depict the relation of (a) the factors that affect the perceived future, (b) the perceived future, and (c) the actions in response to the perceived future. In particular, the research highlights that knowing how the youths perceive the future enable us to understand the relation of the macro environment and the behavior of youths; (3) To articulate the public discourses related to the sentiments of the youths to their actual situation. It enables us to assess the strengths and influences of respective public discourse in the public sphere; (4) In a long run, it plans to have the perceptions of Hong Kong's future as the indicators to observe the attitudinal changes of Hong Kong's youth longitudinally

## 2. Research Methodology

To understand the perception of Hong Kong youth regarding the future, we conducted a telephone survey and eight focus group interviews to collect data on their opinions, rationales, motivations, experiences, and different aspects of their lives.

The telephone survey is a comprehensive research tool that enables the collection of data from large random samples in a relatively short period of time. In this survey, the mobile telephone survey was conducted by interviewers using a computer assisted telephone interview (CATI) system with the aid of a structured questionnaire. By conducting our research through the telephone survey, we had greater control over the quality of the data collection process, which was highly standardised and closely monitored.

In the telephone survey, the target population was Hong Kong youth aged 15–30 years who spoke Cantonese. To construct the sampling frame, the interviewers selected random mobile phone numbers from a pool of seed numbers formed by matching mobile phone numbers issued by the Communication Authority (the first four digits) to 1,000 four-digit numbers from 0000 to 9,999. Invalid numbers were eliminated based on past records. The fieldwork was carried out between 23 August 2018 and 25 September 2018, a total of 25 days. All telephone interviews were conducted at the Center for Communication and Public Opinion Survey at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The entire process was fully supervised.

In this survey, 101,414 random mobile numbers were dialed. Among these numbers, 54,675 were identified as “Ineligible” (“invalid line” [48,035], “business number” [126], “fax number” [232] and “ineligible respondents” [6,282]); 45,542 respondents were classified as “Unknown” (“no answer” [29,796], “busy line” [1,024], “password blockage” [141], “language problem” [698], “break-off” [13,883]). Among those classified as “Eligible,” 291 refused to be interviewed, and 103 terminated the interview before it was completed. Eventually, 803 eligible respondents completed the survey. The response rate was 37% at a confidence level 95%; the estimated sampling error was +/- 3.5%. Specific information about the fieldwork, such as the response rate calculation, is provided in Appendix 1.

Table 2.1 Mobile Phone Survey Fieldwork

Ineligible	Invalid Line	48,035
	Business Number	126
	Fax Number	232
	Ineligible Respondents	6,282
Unknown	No Answer	29,796
	Busy Line	1,024
	Password Blockage	141
	Language Problem	698
	Break-Off	13,883
Eligible	Refused to be interviewed	291
	Termination of Interview	103
	<b>Eligible Respondents</b>	<b>803</b>
Total Number of Random Mobile Numbers Dialed (N)		101,414
	<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>37%</b>

Eight focus group interviews were conducted in May and June, 2018. The focus group participants were recruited through the snowball sampling method. We adopted this method because of the difficulty in assessing a sufficient number of youth respondents from diverse socio-demographic backgrounds. The first few respondents were found through the personal network of members of the research team. We then invited them to refer classmates, friends, or relatives who fit our participant requirements for taking part in the interviews. These interviewees were later invited to refer additional participants in the focus groups. We aimed to select interviewees with different socio-demographic characteristics to ensure a larger extent of randomness in the sample selection of the focus groups. Sixty-three interviewees were finally selected and divided into eight groups based on their levels of educational attainment and characteristics we deemed vital to the research. All focus group interviewees received a transportation allowance.

- ✧ Groups 1 and 2 were comprised of eight undergraduate students each. All students were enrolled in UGC-funded or self-funded undergraduate programs at various universities in Hong Kong. These respondents came from different institutions, had different majors, and were in different years of study.
- ✧ Group 3 was comprised of seven students from various secondary schools, who had just completed the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE).
- ✧ Group 4 was comprised of nine associate degree students, including seven year-one students and two year-two students from different tertiary institutions

and studying various majors.

- ✧ Group 5 was comprised nine working adults who had completed degree programs. They were full-time workers in different occupations; not all were classified as “professionals.” We defined “professionals” as those who held jobs that required special training, education, or skills. They had to have obtained specific licenses or certificates to take part in that occupation.
- ✧ Group 6 was comprised of five working adults who had not completed degree programs. All were full-time workers in different occupations. The number of these respondents was low, as some participants did not attend the interviews.
- ✧ Group 7 was comprised of eight working adults who were classified as “professionals” working in various professional fields.
- ✧ Group 8 was comprised of nine young adults (aged 18–30 years) with foreign experience. We defined foreign experience as staying in a foreign country not less than six months. In this group, some respondents were born and raised in foreign countries; some had been abroad on working holidays or had studied in a foreign country.

### **3. Findings from the Telephone Survey**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

The telephone survey was carried out between August 2018 and September 2018. Through random sampling, 803 respondents were recruited to complete the survey.

The telephone survey was divided into six parts:

1. Respondents' backgrounds and political behaviors in terms of socio-demographic characteristics, political participation, and news consumption
2. Respondents' attitudes toward aspects of life, including education, upward mobility, housing, and emigration
3. Respondents' perceived current personal living standards and family support
4. Respondents' incremental optimism about perceived personal future and perceived future in terms of happiness
5. Respondents' optimism about perceived personal and family future
6. Respondents' optimism about perceived future of Hong Kong

We then generated cross-tabulation for the further analysis of the interactions between the above six parts:

1. The effects of the perceived personal and social determinants on the respondents' perception of their personal future
2. The effects of different dimensions of the perceived future of Hong Kong on optimism about Hong Kong's future
3. The effects of various determinants of perception of future and on the perceived future of political participation
4. The effects of incremental optimism on optimism about family future, personal future, happiness, Hong Kong's future, and political participation

Please refer to Appendix 2 for the list of tables and to Appendix 3 for the complete questionnaire.

#### **3.2 Respondents' Basic Socio-Demographic Profiles**

We first present the socio-demographic characteristics of the survey respondents. The 803 respondents were comprised almost equally of males (50.3%) and females (49.7%); 24.3% of the respondents were aged 15–19 years, 33.2% were aged from 20–24 years, and 42.5% were aged from 25–30 years. The majority of the respondents

(73.3%) were born in Hong Kong, 24.8% were born in Mainland China, and the remaining 1.8% were born in Taiwan, Macao, or other places. Regarding their level of educational attainment, 56.8% had completed tertiary education. Among them, 23.2% were UGC-funded degree holders, 12.9% were self-funded degree holders, 7.5% were post-graduate degree holders, 3.5% were associate degree holders, the remaining 9.7% had studied non-degree programs, such as a higher diploma; 34.4% of the respondents reported upper secondary as the highest level of education attained, and the remaining 6.6% had achieved a lower secondary or below education.

Table 3.2.1 Respondents' Basic Socio-Demographic Profiles

	%
<i>Gender</i>	
Male	50.3
Female	49.7
(N)	(803)
<i>Age</i>	
15–19	24.3
20–24	33.2
25–30	42.5
(N)	(788)
<i>Place of Birth</i>	
Hong Kong	73.3
Mainland	24.8
Taiwan, Macao, or others	1.8
(N)	(791)
<i>Level of Educational Attainment</i>	
Lower secondary or below	6.6
Upper secondary	34.4
Tertiary (non-degree): Associate degree	3.5
Tertiary (non-degree): Other non-degree programs	9.7
Tertiary (degree): UGC-funded degree programs	23.2
Tertiary (degree): Self-funded degree programs	12.9
Tertiary: Post-graduate degree	7.5
Others	2.2
(N)	(800)

More than half of the respondents (55.6%) were currently working, 36.7% were students, 6.6% were seeking jobs, and 1.2% were in alternative economic activities; 25.9% of the respondents' households earned less than \$30,000 per month, 31.2% of earned HKD \$30,000–49,999 per month, 24.8% earned \$50,000–79,999 per month, and 18.2% of the respondents' households earned \$80,000 or above per month.

Table 3.2.2 Respondents' Basic Socio-Demographic Profiles (Cont'd)

	%
<i>Economic Activity Status</i>	
Student	36.7
Working adult	55.6
Job-seeker	6.6
Others	1.2
(N)	(803)
<i>Monthly Household Income (HKD)</i>	
Below 5,999	1.1
6,000–9,999	0.5
10,000–14,999	5.2
15,000–19,999	4.5
20,000–24,999	8.7
25,000–29,999	5.9
30,000–39,999	16.3
40,000–49,999	14.9
50,000–59,999	11.6
60,000–79,999	13.2
80,000 or above	18.2
(N)	(730)

Regarding their marital status, 15% of the respondents were married, while 85% of them were not married. Among the unmarried respondents, 36.6% expected that they would get married before the age of 30 years, 44.9% expected that they would get married between the ages of 30 to 34 years, 12.8% expected that they would get married after the age of 34 years, and 5.6% believed that they would not get married.

Table 3.2.3 Respondents' Basic Socio-Demographic Profiles (Cont'd)

	%
<i>Marital Status</i>	
Married/Once married	15.0
Not married	85.0
(N)	(731)
<i>Expectation of Age for Marriage (Only applicable to not married respondents)</i>	
16–19	0.6
20–24	2.7
25–29	33.3
30–34	44.9
35–39	10.8
40–44	1.0
45–49	0.8
50 or above	0.2
Remain unmarried	5.6
(N)	(621)

### 3.3 Respondents' Political Participation

The majority of the respondents (67.2%) did not participate in any political activities, such as demonstrations, joint signature campaigns, donations to political parties, or expressing political opinions to government officials or political figures, and so on from August, 2017 to August, 2018 (the time frame was the 12 months immediately previous to the survey period); 31.3% reported they seldom (22%) or often (9.3%) participated in political activities, and 1.6% reported that they usually (1%) or always (0.6%) participated in political activities.

When they were asked about their participation in the 2016 Geographical Constituency in the Legislative Council of the HKSAR, 39.6% had voted, 25.3% had not voted and 35.2% were not eligible to vote.

Table 3.3 Respondents' Political Participation

	%
<b><i>Participation in political activities</i></b>	
<i>In the past 12 months, participated in demonstrations, joint signature campaigns, donations to political parties or expressed political opinions to government officials or political figures</i>	
Never	67.2
Seldom	22.0
Often	9.3
Usually	1.0
Always	0.6
(N)	(803)
<b><i>Participation in 2016 Geographical Constituency. in the Legislative Council of the HKSAR</i></b>	
Yes, I voted.	39.6
No, I did not vote.	25.3
I was not eligible to vote.	35.2
(N)	(796)

### 3.4 News Consumption Patterns of the Survey Respondents

To understand the respondents' news consumption patterns, we first asked them about the amount of time they spent receiving current and public affairs information via traditional media, such as newspapers, magazines, television, and radio, on average per day: 13.1% reported they did not spend any time (0 minute), 31.1% spent 1–30 minutes, 16.5% spent 31–60 minutes, 21.2% spent 1–2 hours, and 18.1% spent more than 2 hours on average per day on news consumption through traditional media.

Second, we asked the respondents about the amount of time they spent on receiving current and public affairs information via the Internet or social media on average per day. Only 5.2% reported they did not spend any time (0 minute), 17.3% spent 1–30 minutes, 14.5% spent 31–60 minutes, 26% spent 1–2 hours and 37.1% spent more than 2 hours on average per day on news consumption through the Internet or social media. Around three-fifths of the respondents (63.1%) spent more than an hour on news consumption via digital means on average per day, which is 23.8% more than the respondents that spent more than an hour on news consumption through traditional

media (39.3%). The respondents tended to spend more time on news consumption through digital means than through traditional means.

Third, we asked the respondents about the amount of time they spent on consuming information about politics, including political groups, political figures, opinion leaders' speeches, activities, and related trends on average per day. The respondents did not spend much time on politics: 77% of the respondents spent less than 30 minutes consuming political information, 48.5% spent 1–30 minutes and 28.5% did not spend any time; 12.4% spent 31–60 minutes, and 8.1% spent 1–2 hours. No respondent spent more than 2 hours consuming political information.

Table 3.4 Respondents' News Consumption Pattern

	%
<i>Time spent on receiving current and public affairs information via <b>traditional media</b> like newspapers, magazines, television, radio, etc. on average per day</i>	
0 min	13.1
1–30 minutes	31.1
31–60 minutes	16.5
1–2 hours	21.2
>2 hours	18.1
(N)	(798)
<i>Time spent on receiving current and public affairs information via the Internet <b>or social media</b> on average per day</i>	
0 min	5.2
1–30 minutes	17.3
31–60 minutes	14.5
1–2 hours	26.0
>2 hours	37.1
(N)	(800)
<i>Time spent on consuming <b>information about politics</b>, such as political groups, political figures, opinion leaders' speeches, activities, or other trends on average per day</i>	
0 min	28.5
1–30 minutes	48.5
31–60 minutes	12.4
1–2 hours	8.1
>2 hours	2.5
(N)	(800)

### 3.5 Respondents' Attitudes toward Education and Upward Mobility

This section of the survey focused on the respondents' attitudes toward education and upward mobility in Hong Kong. The respondents indicated the extent to which they agreed with each statement on a five-point Likert scale (strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, strongly agree). This section included a total of six statements.

The first statement was "Everyone enjoys equal opportunity". The equality of opportunity is a social and political ideal in which all members of society can compete on equal terms for opportunities that are open to everyone. In the fundamental equality of rights and freedoms, people are assessed according to their merits and only the most qualified ones, according to established criteria, are offered particular positions. This state of fairness promotes social mobility because a person's social status is not fixed and determined by discriminatory factors, such as sex, race, ethnicity, marital status, and disability. In Hong Kong, the Equal Opportunities Commission is a statutory body that was established in 1996 to implement the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, Disability Discrimination Ordinance, Family Status Discrimination Ordinance, and the Race Discrimination Ordinance. The above ordinances provide various codes of practice to eliminate discrimination and promote equal opportunities for employment in Hong Kong. Of the respondents, 35.3% agreed (19.5%) or strongly agreed (15.8%) with the statement; 35.4% felt neutral about the statement; 29.3% disagreed (19.9%) or strongly disagreed (9.4%) with the statement. Therefore, most respondents felt either positively or neutrally about equal opportunity in Hong Kong.

The second statement was "Only wealthy young people can receive a quality education" which was aimed to elicit the respondents' perception of the fairness of Hong Kong's educational system. The HKSAR government provides free and universal education for the next generation through public sector primary and secondary schools since 1978. In 2008, the nine years of free education (including six years of primary education and three years of junior secondary education) were extended to 12 years, thus including senior secondary education. Of the respondents, 36.2% agreed (24.3%) or strongly agreed (11.9%) with the statement; 27.8% were neutral; 36% disagreed (22.4%) or strongly disagreed (13.6%) with the statement. These results indicated that the responses to this statement were polarized.

The third statement was "Education is the most important way for young people to move up the social ladder" which was aimed to explore the relationship between

education and upward mobility. Of the respondents, 44.9% agreed (27.8%) or strongly agreed (17.1%) with the statement; 35.1% were neutral; 19.9% disagreed (12.6%) or strongly disagreed (7.3%) with the statement. These results showed that the majority of the respondents believed that education was the most important means of upward mobility.

The fourth statement was “Instead of studying hard, it is better to learn about speculation” which was aimed to elicit responses indicating alternative means of upward mobility in addition to education. The term “speculation” refers to the transaction of risky financial instruments (e.g., shares and bonds) in the hope of a significant gain but with the risk of total loss, as market fluctuations lead to constant changes in the instruments’ market prices. People always highlight the mandatory role of money in their lives. It is therefore very important to manage money wisely and create wealth to ensure a secure future. Because Hong Kong is one of the world’s leading financial centres and is known for its low tax and free trade system, speculation may be a better way than studying hard to accumulate wealth or improve the quality of life. Of the respondents, 18% agreed (10.6%) or strongly agreed (7.4%) with the statement; 32.2% were neutral; 50% either disagreed (28.3%) or strongly disagreed (21.7%) with the statement. The majority of the respondents disagreed that learning to speculate was more important than studying hard. These results are in alignment with the results of the previous statement. The respondents regarded education (the traditional means) as the most significant path to “success.”

Table 3.5.1 Respondents' Attitudes toward Education and Upward Mobility

	%
<i>Everyone enjoys equal opportunity</i>	
Strongly disagree	9.4
Disagree	19.9
Neutral	35.4
Agree	19.5
Strongly agree	15.8
(N)	(803)
 <i>Only wealthy young people can receive quality education</i>	
Strongly disagree	13.6
Disagree	22.4
Neutral	27.8
Agree	24.3
Strongly agree	11.9
(N)	(803)
 <i>Education is the most important way for young people to move up the social ladders</i>	
Strongly disagree	7.3
Disagree	12.6
Neutral	35.1
Agree	27.8
Strongly agree	17.1
(N)	(802)
 <i>Instead of studying hard, it is better to learn speculation</i>	
Strongly disagree	21.7
Disagree	28.3
Neutral	32.2
Agree	10.6
Strongly agree	7.4
(N)	(803)

The fifth statement was “Hard work can lead to the improvement of my financial situation”, which was aimed to elicit responses indicating that a “healthy” financial situation could be achieved through hard work. An individual’s financial situation can be evaluated by assessing several factors, such as the amount of debt, the amount of savings, monthly expenses, and so on. Of the respondents, 65.7% agreed (37.5%) or strongly agreed (28.2%) with the statement; 27.2% were neutral; only 7.1% of the respondents disagreed (5.4%) or strongly disagreed (1.7%). A large proportion of the respondents agreed that they could improve their financial situation through hard work.

The sixth statement was “Hard work can lead to improved quality of life” which was aimed to elicit responses indicating that the quality of life could be improved through hard work. The concept of quality of life concerns how people measure the “goodness” of different aspects of their lives, such as physical and mental well-being, sense of life-fulfillment, satisfaction with work, and interpersonal relationships (Theofilou, 2013; Diener, Suh, Lucas, & Smith, 1999). Therefore, compared with the fifth statement, which was only about the individual’s economic situation, the sixth statement referred to well-being in a more comprehensive manner. Of the respondents, 66.2% agreed (41.6%) or strongly agreed with the statement; 28.3% were neutral; only 6.6% of the respondents disagreed (4.2%) or strongly disagreed (1.4%) with the statement. This result is in alignment with the responses to the previous statement, indicating that the majority of the respondents agreed that they could improve their quality of life through hard work.

Table 3.5.2 Respondents' Attitudes toward Education and Upward Mobility (Cont'd)

	%
<i>Hard work can lead to improvement of financial situation</i>	
Strongly disagree	1.7
Disagree	5.4
Neutral	27.2
Agree	37.5
Strongly agree	28.2
(N)	(803)
<i>Hard work can lead to improvement of quality of life</i>	
Strongly disagree	1.4
Disagree	4.2
Neutral	28.3
Agree	41.6
Strongly agree	24.6
(N)	(803)

In summary, the findings showed that the respondents' perception were generally positive regarding education and upward mobility in Hong Kong, revealing that they believed that they could climb up the social ladder by studying and working hard.

### 3.6 Respondents' Attitudes toward Housing

This section of the survey focused on the respondents' attitudes toward housing in Hong Kong. As in the previous section, the respondents had to indicate the extent to which they agreed with the statements provided. This section included three statements and one question.

The first statement was "Acquiring a flat is a prerequisite for family formation". Of the respondents, 35.8% agreed (22.9%) or strongly agreed (12.9%) with the statement; 26.3% were neutral; 37.9% disagreed (22.1%) or strongly disagreed (15.8%) with the statement.

The second statement was "Acquiring a flat is a prerequisite for life improvement". Of the respondents, 32.2% agreed (20.9%) or strongly agreed (11.3%) with the

statement; 30.7% were neutral. 37.1% of the respondents disagreed (20.2%) or strongly disagreed (16.9%) with the statement.

The third statement is “Acquiring a flat will help to accumulate more wealth in the future”. Of the respondents, 54.7% agreed (30.3%) or strongly agreed (24.4%) with the statement; 26.5% were neutral; 18.9% of the respondents disagreed (10.7%) or strongly disagreed (8.2%) with the statement.

Table 3.6.1 Respondents’ Attitudes toward Housing

	%
<i>Acquiring a flat is a prerequisite for family formation.</i>	
Strongly disagree	15.8
Disagree	22.1
Neutral	26.3
Agree	22.9
Strongly agree	12.9
(N)	(803)
<i>Acquiring a flat is a prerequisite for life improvement.</i>	
Strongly disagree	16.9
Disagree	20.2
Neutral	30.7
Agree	20.9
Strongly agree	11.3
(N)	(803)
<i>Acquiring a flat will help to accumulate more wealth in the future.</i>	
Strongly disagree	8.2
Disagree	10.7
Neutral	26.5
Agree	30.3
Strongly agree	24.4
(N)	(802)

We then asked the respondents about their status regarding flat ownership. Of the respondents, 8.6% had already acquired a flat; 3.6% had not acquired a flat but were capable of acquiring a flat; 36.9% had not acquired a flat, were not capable of acquiring one at present, but would be capable of acquiring a flat in the next 5 to 10 years. However, more than half of the respondents (50.9%) who had not acquired a flat and were not capable of acquiring one now anticipated that they would not be capable of acquiring a flat in the next 5 to 10 years. These results demonstrate that the majority of the respondents were relatively pessimistic about their ability to acquire a flat.

Table 3.6.2 Respondents' Attitudes toward Housing (Cont'd)

	%
<i>Status of flat acquirement</i>	
Have acquired a flat	8.6
Have not acquired a flat but capable of acquiring it now	3.6
Have not acquired a flat. not capable of acquiring it now, will be capable of acquiring it in the next 5 to 10 years	36.9
Have not acquired a flat not capable of acquiring it now, will not be capable of acquiring it in the next 5 to 10 years	50.9
(N)	(789)

### 3.7 Respondents' Attitudes toward Emigration

To understand the respondents' attitudes toward emigration, we asked them if they would like to leave Hong Kong and emigrate to other places if there were an opportunity to do so. Of the respondents, 11% indicated that they did not hope to (6.6%) or strongly did not hope to (4.4%) emigrate; 42.9% were neutral; 46.1% indicated that they hoped to (24%) or strongly hoped to (22.1%) emigrate. These results demonstrate that the respondents more or less hope to leave Hong Kong and emigrate to other places if possible.

Table 3.7 Respondents' Attitudes toward Emigration

	%
<i>Leave Hong Kong and emigrate to other places if there is an opportunity</i>	
Strongly not hope to	4.4
Not hope to	6.6
Neutral	42.9
Hope to	24.0
Strongly hope to	22.1
(N)	(801)

### 3.8 Respondents' Perceived Present Overall Life Satisfaction

In this section, we asked the respondents to indicate their perception of their present overall life satisfaction. They rated their present overall life satisfaction on a scale from 0–10 points, where 0 was very unsatisfied, 5 was neutral, which was also the passing mark, and 10 was very satisfied. Of the respondents, 17.3% indicated from 0–4, indicating that they were not very satisfied with their current lives. The majority of the respondents indicate 7 (27.2%) or 8 (27.3%), which demonstrated that they were quite satisfied with their current lives. The mean score was 6.11 with a standard deviation of 1.879, which was 1.11 points higher than the passing mark.

Table 3.8 Respondents' Perceived Present Overall Life Satisfaction

	%
<i>Present overall life satisfaction</i>	
0 points (very unsatisfied)	1.1
1 point	1.4
2 points	1.5
3 points	5.9
4 points	7.4
5 points (neutral)	16.0
6 points	17.2
7 points	27.2
8 points	27.3
9 points	2.9
10 points (very satisfied)	2.2
(N)	(802)
Mean (SD)	6.11 (1.879)

### 3.9 Respondents' Perceived Support from Personal Network

To gather data on the respondents' perceived support by their personal network, we asked if they found it easy to get help from family members, relatives, or friends during difficult times. Of the respondents, 55% found getting help from their personal network easy (33.8%) or very easy (21.2%); 32.1% were neutral; only 12.9% found it not easy (9%) or not easy at all (3.9%) to get help from personal network. These results indicated that the majority of the respondents could easily get support from their personal network during difficult times.

Table 3.9 Respondents' Perceived Support from Personal Network

	%
<i>Getting help from family members, relatives, or friends during difficult times</i>	
Very easy	21.2
Easy	33.8
Neutral	32.1
Not easy	9.0
Not easy at all	3.9
(N)	(803)

### 3.10 Respondents' Incremental Optimism about Perceived Personal Future

This section was aimed at identifying the respondents' incremental optimism about their perceived personal future. We designed four questions that targeted respondents with different levels of educational attainment. First, we asked the working adults about their work or career development in the next five years; they had to decide if their situation would be better, be worse, or remain the same. Of the respondents, 67.3% believed that their career would likely be better (44.5%) or definitely better (22.8%); 29.2% believed that the situation would be the same; 3.4% believed that their career would likely be worse (2.4%) or definitely worse (1%). These results showed that the majority of the working adult respondents were optimistic about their future career development.

Second, we asked the students who were currently studying in degree programs about their chances of landing their ideal job after they graduated. They were asked to indicate whether they had no chance or some chance of attaining their desired career. Of the respondents, 57% believed that they likely had some chance (42.9%) or

definitely had some chance (14.1%) of landing their ideal job; 40.6% believed that the chance would be half-and-half. Only 2.4% of the respondents believed that they likely had no chance (1.7%) or definitely had no chance of (0.7%) landing their ideal job. These results showed that only a very small number of the undergraduate respondents were pessimistic about their future career.

Table 3.10.1 Respondents' Incremental Optimism about Perceived Personal Future

	%
<i>Work or career development after five years</i>	
<i>(Only for working adult)</i>	
Definitely be worse	1.0
Likely be worse	2.4
Remain the same	29.2
Likely be better	44.5
Definitely be better	22.8
(N)	(497)
 <i>Chances of landing ideal job after graduating from degree program</i>	
<i>(Only for students studying in a degree program)</i>	
Definitely no chance	0.7
Likely no chance	1.7
Half-and-half	40.6
Likely some chance	42.9
Definitely some chance	14.1
(N)	(111)

Third, we asked the students who were currently studying in non-degree tertiary programs about their chances of enrolling in a degree program at a local university or other institution after graduating. Of the respondents, 33.9% believed that they likely had some chance (27.2%) or definitely had some chance (6.7%) of enrolling in a degree program; 40.7% believed that the chance was half-and-half; 2.9% of the respondents believed that there was likely no chance (1.4%) or definitely no chance (1.5%) of enrolling in a degree program; 22.5% had no plan to study further or planned to study abroad. The majority perceived that their chance of enrolling in a degree program was uncertain.

Fourth, we asked the secondary school students about their chances of further study in

Hong Kong after they graduated. Of the respondents, 33.3% perceived that they likely had some chance (28.4%) or definitely had some chance (4.9%) of further study in Hong Kong; 41.5% perceived that the chance was half-and-half; 14.8% perceived that they likely had no chance of further study in Hong Kong; no respondent indicated definitely no chance of further study in Hong Kong; 10.4% had no plan to study further or planned to study abroad. The majority believed that their chances of further study in Hong Kong after graduating from secondary school were uncertain.

Table 3.10.2 Respondents' Incremental Optimism about Perceived Personal Future  
(Cont'd)

	%
<i>Chances of enrolling in local university's or other institution's degree program after graduating from non-degree program</i>	
<i>(Only for students studying non-degree programs)</i>	
Definitely no chance	1.5
Likely no chance	1.4
Half-and-half	40.7
Likely some chance	27.2
Definitely some chance	6.7
No plan to study further or to study abroad	22.5
(N)	(39)
<i>Chances of further study in Hong Kong after graduating from secondary school</i>	
<i>(Only for secondary school students)</i>	
Definitely no chance	0
Likely no chance	14.8
Half-and-half	41.5
Likely some chance	28.4
Definitely some chance	4.9
No plan to study further or to study abroad	10.4
(N)	(140)

### 3.11 Importance of Personal Determinants in Respondents' Perceived Personal Future

This section of the survey was aimed to collect data on the influence of various personal determinants on the respondents' perceived personal future. We asked the respondents whether (1) education level, (2) ideal job, (3) salary, (4) investment skill, (5) flat ownership, and (6) marriage were important determinants that affected their personal future. The respondents answered either yes or no: yes indicated that the determinant was important, and no indicated that the determinant was not important. Of the respondents, 63.8% indicated that salary was an important determinant of their future life, which was the highest among the six determinants; 50.5% indicated that the education level was important; 49.5% indicated that the ideal job was important; 49.2% indicated that investment was important; 35.1% indicated that flat ownership was important. Only 13.1% indicated that marriage was an important determinant of their personal future.

Table 3.11 Importance of Personal Determinants in Respondents' Perceived Personal Future

	Yes %	No %	N
Education level	49.5	50.5	(789)
Ideal job	50.5	49.5	(788)
Salary	63.8	36.2	(787)
Investment skill	49.2	50.8	(789)
Flat ownership	35.1	64.9	(789)
Marriage	13.1	86.9	(788)

### 3.12 Importance of Social Determinants in Respondents' Perceived Personal Future

This section was aimed to collect data on the importance of various social determinants in the respondents' perceived personal future. We asked the respondents to indicate how important the five suggested social determinants were for their personal future. Of the respondents, 67.7% indicated that the employment environment was important (41.2%) or very important (26.5%) for their personal future; 28.1% were neutral; 4.3% indicated that the employment environment was unimportant (2.9%) or very unimportant (1.4%); 73.2% of the respondents indicated that general price levels were important (34.3%) or very important (38.9%); 22.6% were neutral; 4.2% indicated that the general price level was unimportant (3.2%) or very unimportant (1%); 76.3% of the respondents found price of housing important (30%) or very important (46.3%) for their personal future. 16.9% felt neutral about price of housing. 6.7% of the respondents indicated that the price of housing was

unimportant (4.3%) or very unimportant (2.4%).

Table 3.12.1 Importance of Social Determinants in Respondents' Perceived Personal Future

	%
<i>Employment environment</i>	
Very unimportant	1.4
Unimportant	2.9
Neutral	28.1
Important	41.2
Very important	26.5
(N)	(800)
<i>General price level</i>	
Very unimportant	1.0
Unimportant	3.2
Neutral	22.6
Important	34.3
Very important	38.9
(N)	(803)
<i>Price of housing</i>	
Very unimportant	2.4
Unimportant	4.3
Neutral	16.9
Important	30.0
Very important	46.3
(N)	(803)

Of the respondents, 66.1% indicated that the preservation of freedom (e.g., freedom of speech, the press, etc.) was important (27.7%) or very important (38.4%) for their personal future; 25.7% were neutral about the preservation of freedom; 8.2% indicated that the preservation of freedom was unimportant (5.6%) or very unimportant (2.6%). Of the respondents, 61.8% indicated that democracy was important (31.6%) or very important (30.2%) for their personal future; 30.3% were neutral about the importance of democracy; 8% indicated that democracy was unimportant (4.7%) or very unimportant (3.3%).

Table 3.12.2 Importance of Social Determinants in Respondents' Perceived Personal Future (Cont'd)

	%
<i>Preservation of freedom, like freedom of speech and press etc.</i>	
Very unimportant	2.6
Unimportant	5.6
Neutral	25.7
Important	27.7
Very important	38.4
(N)	(801)
<i>Democracy</i>	
Very unimportant	3.3
Unimportant	4.7
Neutral	30.3
Important	31.6
Very important	30.2
(N)	(801)

### 3.13 Respondents' Perceived Personal Future in Terms of Happiness

This section was aimed to elicit responses regarding the respondents' perceived personal future in terms of happiness. We asked them whether their lives would be happier or unhappier in the next five years. Of the respondents, 17.7% indicated that their lives would likely be happier (13.6%) or definitely happier (4.1%); 53.8% indicated that their lives would be the same; 28.4% indicated that their lives would likely be unhappier (23.3%) or definitely unhappier (5.1%). The majority of the respondents indicated that the level of happiness in the next five years would be roughly the same.

Table 3.13 Respondents' Perceived Personal Future in terms of Happiness

	%
<i>Life in Hong Kong after five years</i>	
Definitely be unhappier	5.1
Likely be unhappier	23.3
Fairly be the same	53.8
Likely be happier	13.6
Definitely be happier	4.1
(N)	(800)

### 3.14 Respondents' Optimism about Perceived Personal Future

In this section, we asked the respondents to rate their optimism about their perceived personal future. They were asked to consider their future personal life and rate it on a scale from 0–10 points, where 0 indicated very pessimistic about the future, 5 indicated neutral, and 10 indicated very optimistic about the future; 5 points was the passing score. The mean score was 6.05 with a standard deviation of 1.820. Of the respondents, 16.2% indicated 0–4 points regarding their future personal life and were pessimistic about their future; 7 points and 6 points were indicated by the majority of the respondents; 23.1% of the respondents indicated 7 points and 20.9% indicate 6 points. These results indicated that the respondents were relatively optimistic about their future.

Table 3.14 Respondents' Optimism about Perceived Personal Future

	%
<i>Future personal life as a whole</i>	
0 points (very pessimistic)	1.5
1 points	0.4
2 points	1.2
3 points	3.4
4 points	9.7
5 points (neutral)	21.1
6 points	20.9
7 points	23.1
8 points	12.0
9 points	3.1
10 points (very optimistic)	3.7
(N)	(803)
Mean (SD)	6.05 (1.820)

### 3.15 Respondents' Optimism about Perceived Family's Future

Regarding their optimism about their perceived family's future, 55.1% of the respondents indicated that their family's living conditions in five years would likely be better (38.8%) or definitely better (16.3%); 39.7% indicated that their family's living conditions would remain the same; 5.1% indicated that their family's living condition would likely be worse (4%) or definitely worse (1.1%).

Table 3.15 Respondents' Optimism about Perceived Family's Future

	%
<i>Family's living condition after five years</i>	
Definitely be worse	1.1
Likely be worse	4.0
Remain the same	39.7
Likely be better	38.8
Definitely be better	16.3
(N)	(801)

### 3.16 Respondents' Perceived Future of Hong Kong Future in Different Dimensions

This section was aimed to elicit responses about Hong Kong's perceived future (in

five years) according to four dimensions: future economic situation, future political situation, future quality of life, and future judicial independence. Of the respondents, 26.1% indicated that Hong Kong's future economic situation would likely be better (23%) or definitely better (3.1%). The majority (45.6%) indicated that the situation would remain the same; 28.3% indicated that the situation would likely be worse (22.4%) or definitely worse (5.9%); 27.5% indicated that the situation would remain the same. Most respondents (62.2%) indicated that Hong Kong's future political situation would likely be worse (35.7%) or definitely worse (26.5%); 10.3% indicated that the situation would likely be better (8.8%) or definitely better (1.5%); 13.5% indicated that the future quality of life would likely be better (11%) or definitely better (2.5%). More than half of respondents (52.8%) indicated that the quality of life would remain the same; 33.7% indicated that the quality of life would likely be worse (25.2%) or definitely worse (2.5%). Most of the respondents (56.7%) indicated that Hong Kong's future judicial independence would likely be worse (34.5%) or definitely worse (22.2%); 35.6% believed that the situation would remain the same; 7.8% believed that the situation would likely be better (5.3%) or definitely better (2.5%).

Table 3.16 Respondents' Perceived Future of Hong Kong in Different Dimensions

	%
<i>Future economic situation</i>	
Definitely be worse	5.9
Likely be worse	22.4
Remain the same	45.6
Likely be better	23.0
Definitely be better	3.1
(N)	(800)
<i>Future political situation</i>	
Definitely be worse	26.5
Likely be worse	35.7
Remain the same	27.5
Likely be better	8.8
Definitely be better	1.5
(N)	(801)
<i>Future quality of life</i>	
Definitely be worse	8.5
Likely be worse	25.2
Remain the same	52.8
Likely be better	11.0
Definitely be better	2.5
(N)	(800)
<i>Future judicial independence</i>	
Definitely be worse	22.2
Likely be worse	34.5
Remain the same	35.6
Likely be better	5.3
Definitely be better	2.5
(N)	(800)

### 3.17 Respondents' Overall Optimism about Hong Kong's Perceived Future

In order to examine the respondents' overall optimism about Hong Kong's perceived future, we asked them to rate it on a scale from 0–10 points, where 0 was very

pessimistic, 5 was neutral, and 10 was very optimistic. The passing score was 5 points. Almost half of the respondents (49%) rated the future of Hong Kong from 0-4 points. The majority of the respondents indicated 5 points (26.7%) and 4 points (19.7%). The mean score was 4.42 points with a standard deviation of 1.902, which was below the passing score. These results showed that the respondents were relatively pessimistic about Hong Kong's future.

Table 3.17 Respondents' Overall Optimism about Hong Kong's Perceived Future

	%
<i>Future of Hong Kong in general</i>	
0 points (very pessimistic)	4.6
1 points	2.5
2 points	5.2
3 points	17.0
4 points	19.7
5 points (neutral)	26.7
6 points	12.5
7 points	6.9
8 points	3.5
9 points	0.2
10 points (very optimistic)	1.3
(N)	(803)
Mean (SD)	4.42 (1.902)

### 3.18 Effects of Perceived Personal Determinants on Individual Perception of Future

In the data analyses, we combined the data derived from the responses to the questions in all sections. First, we examined the effects of the perceived personal determinants on the respondents' perception of future at the individual level. As shown in Table 3.18, all factors listed as personal determinants were control variables, including gender, age, education level, family income, birthplace, working adult, ability to purchase private housing, perceived support from personal network, news consumption on mainstream media, and news consumption on social media. Some control variables were recoded into binaries to increase the conciseness of the results. In terms of birthplace, born in Hong Kong equaled 1, and born elsewhere equaled 0. In terms of working adults, currently working equaled 1, and not currently working equaled 0. In terms of the ability to purchase private housing, had purchased a flat, and capable of purchasing a flat at present equaled 1, and not capable of purchasing a

flat at present equaled 0.

The findings showed that the respondents with higher family incomes were more optimistic about their family's future and their personal future. However, they were not happier compared with the respondents with lower family incomes. The respondents who were born in Hong Kong were less optimistic about their personal and family futures, and their level of happiness in the future. The respondents who were more capable of purchasing private housing were significantly more optimistic about their family and personal futures. The respondents who believed that they would get support from their personal network were significantly more optimistic about their family and personal futures as well as their level of happiness in the future.

In terms of personal determinants, the respondents who indicated that the educational level important were more optimistic about their personal future, whereas the respondents who indicated that the ideal job was important were more optimistic about their family and personal futures. Based on these findings, the respondents who indicated that the ideal job and education were important determinants of their perception of future were more optimistic about the future. Among the six personal determinants, educational level, and ideal job were perceived to be attainable by personal effort. This finding indicated that the respondents who perceived that education was important for the future would work harder to attain excellent academic results. In addition, the findings indicated that if the ideal job was perceived as the key to success, the respondents would try hard to find a job with better career prospects. Moreover, these respondents were more likely to have clear goals. Salary and investment skills were uncertain factors in determining the future. They were less related to personal effort than to external factors. These respondents tended to not set a specific goal to attaining a positive future.

The respondents who indicated that private housing was important were less optimistic about their level of happiness in their future. Because private housing in Hong Kong is highly unaffordable, it is extremely difficult to acquire a flat. Hence, if a housing flat were very important but unobtainable, the level of happiness would be perceived lower.

Table 3.18 Effects of Perceived Personal Determinants on Individual Perception of Future

	Optimism about family's future	Optimism about personal future	Happiness in the future
Gender	-.015	-.054	.021
Age	-.016	-.019	.055
Education level	.016	-.096**	-.112**
Family income	.112**	.072*	-.092*
Birth place (Not HK = 0)	-.167***	-.155***	-.143***
Working adult (No = 0)	.039	.032	.041
Purchasing power for private housing (No = 0)	.147***	.082*	.030
Perceived support from personal network	.161***	.309***	.231***
News consumption on mainstream media	-.011	-.020	.001
News consumption on social media	-.056	-.059	-.077*
Personal determinant: Education level	.041	<b>.084*</b>	.067
Personal determinant: Ideal job	<b>.087*</b>	<b>.075*</b>	.011
Personal determinant: Salary	.029	.001	-.025
Personal determinant: Investment skill	.049	.045	-.017
Personal determinant: Private housing	-.020	-.052	<b>-.078*</b>
Personal determinant: Marriage	.064	.099**	-.001
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	9.2%***	14.9%***	9.3%***

*Note.* The entries are standardised coefficients. N = 802. The missing values are replaced by means. \*p < .05, \*\*p < .01, \*\*\*p < .001

### 3.19 Effects of Perceived Social Determinants on Individual Perception of Future

In this section, instead of personal determinants, the data were analysed to show the effects of social determinants on the respondents' perception of future. The dependent variables were the same as that in the previous section, that is, individual perception of future. However, the independent variable was seen as social determinants.

Among the five social determinants, democracy was the only significant social determinant of the respondents' perception of future. If the respondents indicated that democracy was important for a better future, they tended to be less optimistic about their family and personal futures, and they were less optimistic about being happy in the future. These results support those of previous studies that have demonstrated

deep concerns about universal values, such as democracy. Our findings also imply that young people are pessimistic about the development of democracy in Hong Kong. Freedom, which is also an important universal value, is not regarded as a significant social factor that determines individual perception of personal future. This finding may imply that young people are less concerned about freedom because it may not have a very significant effect on their personal future in the present context.

Table 3.19 Effects of Perceived Social Determinants on Individual Perception of Future

	Optimism about family's future	Optimism about personal future	Happiness in the future
Gender	-.006	-.079*	-.012
Age	-.055	-.038	-.010
Education level	.039	-.063	-.074*
Family income	.112**	.067	-.105**
Birth place (Not HK = 0)	-.166***	-.155***	-.130***
Working adult (No = 0)	.066	.068	.068
Purchasing power for private housing (No = 0)	.143***	.075*	.020
Perceived support from personal network	.164***	.308***	.233***
News consumption on mainstream media	-.009	-.015	.000
News consumption on social media	-.036	-.020	-.036
Social determinant: Environment of employment	-.009	.014	-.034
Social determinant: General price level	-.032	-.053	-.028
Social determinant: Price of housing	.022	-.025	-.008
Social determinant: Freedom	.015	-.070	-.034
Social determinant: Democracy	<b>-.117*</b>	<b>-.102*</b>	<b>-.185***</b>
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	9.4%***	15.8%***	12.%***

*Note.* The entries are standardised coefficients. N = 802. The missing values are replaced by means. \*p < .05, \*\*p < .01, \*\*\*p < .001

### 3.20 Effects of Different Dimensions of the Perceived Future of Hong Kong Society on Overall Optimism about Hong Kong's Future

In this section of the data analysis, we aimed to determine the effects of different dimensions of the perceived future of Hong Kong on the overall optimism about

Hong Kong's future. The four dimensions, which are economic situation, political situation, quality of life, and judicial independence, were independent variables; the individual optimism regarding Hong Kong's future was the dependent variable. The findings showed that all four dimensions were very significant in determining the respondents' perception of Hong Kong's future. Judicial independence was among the most relevant factors. These results are in alignment with the results showing the respondents' profound concern about universal values.

Table 3.20 Effects of Different Dimensions of the Perceived Future of Hong Kong Society on Overall Optimism about Hong Kong's Future

	Overall optimism about Hong Kong's future
Gender	-.023
Age	-.055
Education level	.036
Family income	-.019
Birth place (Not HK = 0)	-.091***
Working adult (No = 0)	.065
Purchasing power for private housing (No = 0)	.020
Perceived support from personal network	.062*
News consumption on mainstream media	.002
News consumption on social media	-.019
Perceived HK's future: Economic situation	<b>.100***</b>
Perceived HK's future: Political situation	<b>.209***</b>
Perceived HK's future: Quality of life	<b>.260***</b>
Perceived HK's future: Judicial independence	<b>.293***</b>
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	49.9%***

*Note.* The entries are standardised coefficients. N = 802. The missing values are replaced by means. \*p < .05, \*\*p < .01, \*\*\*p < .001

### 3.21 Effects of the Determinants of Perception of Future and the Perceived Future on Political Participation

In this section of the data analysis, we aimed to show the determinants of perception of future and the perceived future on respondents' political participation. Personal determinants, social determinants, dimensions of the perceived future, individual perception of personal future and perception of Hong Kong's future were independent variables, and their political participation was the dependent variable.

In this section, the data analysis is particularly important because it indicates the responses of youth to their perception of future. Model 1 illustrates how personal determinants affect their political participation; none of the personal determinants have significant effects on people's political participation. This suggests that it is not

common for young people to solve their personal problems through taking part in political participation. They tend to solve their problems on their own.

As shown in Table 3.21, the results of Model 2 shows how social determinants affect the respondents' political participation. An interesting finding is that the respondents' materialistic concerns about the employment environment, general price level, and housing prices do not increase their political participation, yet their political concerns about freedom and democracy show very significant effects on their political participation. These results suggest that youth do not tend toward political participation to improve their personal well-being, but they participate in politics to improve the well-being of society.

The results of Model 3 demonstrated that the respondents' perception of the dimensions of Hong Kong's future would affect their political participation. Among all four dimensions, the concern about judicial independence was the only significant factor that would increase political participation. This finding implies that if judicial independence in Hong Kong were threatened, youth could react by engaging in political participation. This result also demonstrates that youth put great emphasis on universal values. It is notable that the respondents' concern about the political situation did not significantly increase their political participation. This finding may suggest that youth are more concerned about some political issues than others and that judicial independence can be regarded as an important factor in determining the political situation in Hong Kong. More research should be conducted in the future to understand the aspects of politics that are the most significant in the concerns of youth.

The results of Model 4 show the effects of the respondents' optimism about their personal future and Hong Kong's future on their political participation. The findings show that the respondents would tend to increase their political participation when they are pessimistic about their personal future and Hong Kong's future. The findings show that the pessimism of youth about Hong Kong's future is more significant in increasing their political participation than their pessimism about their own futures. This finding supports with Models 1 and 2, which show the propensity of youth to express dissatisfaction with the social well-being through political participation and their tendency not to solve their personal problems by escalating them to the level of political participation.

Table 3.21 Effects of the Determinants of Perception of Future and the Perceived Future on Political Participation

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
Gender	.011	.032	-.004	-.006
Age	.016	.067	.033	.016
Education level	.091*	.045	.043	.053
Family income	.054	.055	.038	.041
Birth place (Not HK = 0)	.076*	.057	.040	.016
Working adult (No = 0)	.026	-.019	.000	.024
Purchasing power for private housing (No = 0)	-.021	-.019	-.012	-.005
Perceived support from personal network	-.046	-.042	-.015	.034
News consumption on mainstream media	.083*	.090*	.106**	.098**
News consumption on social media	.093	.044	.062	.065
Personal determinant: Education level	-.002	/	/	/
Personal determinant: Ideal job	.019	/	/	/
Personal determinant: Salary	-.025	/	/	/
Personal determinant: Investment skill	-.024	/	/	/
Personal determinant: Private housing	.002	/	/	/
Personal determinant: Marriage	-.015	/	/	/
Social determinant: Environment of employment	/	-.008	/	/
Social determinant: General price level	/	-.013	/	/
Social determinant: Price of housing	/	-.021	/	/
Social determinant: Freedom	/	<b>.154***</b>	/	/
Social determinant: Democracy	/	<b>.152***</b>	/	/
Perceived HK's future: Economic situation	/	/	.011	/
Perceived HK's future:	/	/	-.051	/

Political situation				
Perceived HK's future:	/	/	-.015	/
Quality of life				
Perceived HK's future:	/	/	<b>-.173***</b>	/
Judicial independence				
Optimism about family's future	/	/	/	.024
Optimism about personal future	/	/	/	<b>-.112*</b>
Happiness in the future	/	/	/	-.070
Overall optimism about HK's future	/	/	/	<b>-.171***</b>
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	4.8%***	11.3%***	8.4%***	11.4%***

*Notes: The entries are standardised coefficients. N = 802. The missing values are replaced by mean. \*p < .05, \*\*p < .01, \*\*\*p < .001*

### 3.22 Effects of Incremental Optimism on Optimism about Family's Future

This section of the data analysis was aimed at showing the effects of the respondents' incremental optimism on their optimism about their family's future. Gender, age, family income, and birthplace were the control variables. The independent variable was incremental optimism, it demonstrates which indicated how youth in different life stages viewed their future. We asked the high school students about their chances of further studying in Hong Kong, we asked the university students about their chances of landing the ideal job, and we asked the working adults about their future career development. In this section of the data analysis, the dependent variable was optimism about the family's future. The findings showed that only working adults' optimism about their career development had a significant effect on their optimism about their family's future. Because high school students and university students are usually not the breadwinners in their families, it seems obvious that their incremental optimism about future did not affecting their optimism about their family's condition. However, working adults are more likely to be a breadwinner or the only breadwinner in their family, their career development would have a very significant effect on their family's future condition.

Table 3.22 Effects of Incremental Optimism on Optimism about Family's Future

	High school students (N = 107)	University students (N = 102)	Working adults (N = 455)
Gender	-.053	.054	.011
Age	-.078	-.033	.029
Family income	-.052	.053	.149***
Birth place (Not HK = 0)	-.077	-.249*	-.149***
Incremental optimism	.081	.141	<b>.436***</b>
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	-1.4%	3.8%	23.7%***

*Note.* The entries are standardised coefficients. \*p < .05, \*\*p < .01, \*\*\*p < .001

### 3.23 Effects of Incremental Optimism on Optimism about Personal Future

This section of the data analysis was analysed to determine how the respondents' incremental optimism affected their optimism about their personal future. The independent variable was incremental optimism, and the dependent variable was optimism about the personal future. The results showed that the incremental optimism of the university students and the working adults was very significant in affecting their optimism about their personal futures. This finding implies that both university students and working adults are deeply concerned about their studies and career development, because they believe that their academic results and career prospects have significant effects on their personal future, both positively and negatively. The findings showed that the high school students' incremental optimism was comparatively less significant in affecting their optimism about their personal futures. This finding implies that high school students, because they are in an early stage of life, may not have clear ideas about their goals, career, and ways to pursue a better future. Instead of focusing on their personal future, they may focus on their studies to attain excellent academic results.

Table 3.23 Effects of Incremental Optimism on Optimism about Personal Future

	High school students (N = 107)	University students (N = 102)	Working adults (N = 456)
Gender	-.082	.016	-.065
Age	-.053	-.175	.093*
Family income	-.042	.081	.095*
Birth place (Not HK = 0)	-.011	-.224*	-.178***
Incremental optimism	<b>.252*</b>	<b>.377***</b>	<b>.378***</b>
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	3.9%	17.4%***	19.6%***

*Note.* The entries are standardised coefficients. \*p < .05, \*\*p < .01, \*\*\*p < .001

### 3.24 Effects of Incremental Optimism on Optimism About Happiness in the Future

This section of the data analysis was conducted to determine the effects of the respondents' incremental optimism on their optimism about happiness in the future. The independent variable was incremental optimism, and the dependent variable was optimism about happiness in the future. The results showed that working adults' incremental optimism significantly affected happiness, followed by the university students' results, which were also significant. The results for the high school students were less significant. Compared with the high school students who are still in an early stage of life, the university students and working adults may have endured more hardships in life. It is understandable that the working adults are anxious about their career development, as they usually have more responsibility for their own future and that of their family; therefore, they are more likely to be fragile and unhappy. This result supports the findings from our focus groups: compared with all other groups, the high school students are the most optimistic about their future.

Table 3.24 Effects of Incremental Optimism on Perceived Happiness in the Future

	High school students (N = 107)	University students (N = 102)	Working adults (N = 455)
Gender	.040	.021	.034
Age	.004	-.034	.075
Family income	.162	-.038	-.191***
Birth place (Not HK = 0)	-.007	-.208*	-.184***
Incremental optimism	.089	<b>.224*</b>	<b>.279***</b>
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	-1.1%	5.2%	13.7%***

*Note.* The entries are standardised coefficients. \*p < .05, \*\*p < .01, \*\*\*p < .001

### 3.25 Effects of Incremental Optimism on Overall Optimism About Hong Kong's Future

This section of the data analysis was conducted to determine the effects of the respondents' incremental optimism on their overall optimism about Hong Kong's future. The results showed that the optimism of the university students and the working adults about their future had a significant effect on their optimism about Hong Kong's future. This finding implies that university students and working adults are more likely to link their personal future with the future of society. If they are more optimistic about their own future, they will also be more optimistic about Hong Kong's future. If youth believe that their future is going to be undesirable, they may also believe that Hong Kong's future will worsen because they may think that the problems they encounter are social issues that are also faced by others.

Table 3.25 Effects of Incremental Optimism on Overall Optimism About Hong Kong's Future

	High school students (N = 107)	University students (N = 102)	Working adults (N = 455)
Gender	.013	-.096	-.007
Age	-.180	-.080	.099*
Family income	-.013	.042	-.077
Birth place (Not HK = 0)	-.329***	-.305**	-.240***
Incremental optimism	-.076	<b>.227*</b>	<b>.197***</b>
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	9.3%**	12.8%**	10.5%***

*Note.* The entries are standardised coefficients. \*p < .05, \*\*p < .01, \*\*\*p < .001

### 3.26 Effects of Incremental Optimism on Political Participation

This section of the data analysis was conducted to determine the effects of the respondents' incremental optimism on their political participation. The results showed that in all three groups, incremental optimism did not have a significant effect on political participation. This finding supports those discussed in section 3.21, which showed that youth do not tend to solve or express discontent about their own problems through political participation.

Table 3.26 Effects of Incremental Optimism on Political Participation

	High school students (N = 107)	University students (N = 102)	Working adults (N = 455)
Gender	-.059	-.107	.015
Age	.210*	.069	-.007
Family income	.012	.023	.058
Birth place (Not HK = 0)	-.095	.089	.136**
Incremental optimism	-.103	-.163	-.063
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	1.6%	0.6%	1.7%*

*Notes.* The entries are standardised coefficients. \*p < .05, \*\*p < .01, \*\*\*p < .001

## 4. Findings from the Focus Group Interviews

### 4.1 Introduction

As discussed in Part 2, eight focus group interviews were carried out between May 2018 and June 2018. Through snowball sampling, 63 interviewees were recruited to participate in the interviews. The group divisions, the participants' requirements, and the number of participants are illustrated in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Focus Group Divisions, Participant Requirements, and Number of Participants

	Participants' Requirements in Each Group	Number of participants
Group 1	Undergraduate Students	8
Group 2	Undergraduate Students	8
Group 3	Secondary School Students (S.6 students)	7
Group 4	Associate Degree Students	7 (year 1) + 2 (year 2)
Group 5	Working Adults (with Undergraduate Degree)	9
Group 6	Working Adults (without Undergraduate Degree)	5
Group 7	Working Adults (Professionals)	8
Group 8	Youth with Foreign Experience	9
		Total: 63

In the following sections, we will discuss the findings from the focus groups according five perspectives: 1) education, career and upward mobility; 2) housing; 3) emigration; 4) financial literacy; 5) Hong Kong's future. First, we will describe the general results derived from the data collected in all the interviews, and then we will discuss the major differences in the results of the interviews with the focus groups.

### 4.2 Respondents' Perception of Education, Career and Upward Mobility

To understand the interviewees' perception of future in terms of education, career and upward mobility, in the focus group studies, we initiated the discussion with three newspaper clips.

The first newspaper clip (see Appendix 4a) quotes what Roy Tsui (also known as Lam Yat Hei), the founder of 100 Most Magazine and website TVMost, posted on his

Facebook the day before Most Kwai Chung Ltd. was enlisted on the mainboard of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. He said: “if you have ever felt that you are to some extent a loser, please don’t feel dejected. When others are busy teasing and criticising you, you can utilise the time to work hard and be yourself.” Based on the clip, we asked interviewees if they found Roy’s success inspiring and whether they would pursue their dream or develop their career like Roy.

Some interviewees found Roy’s case very encouraging and believed that he would be a role model for young people. They appreciated Roy as he did not give up when he encountered failures and faced criticism. It was his diligent work and determination that led to his success. An interviewee said, *“people have to be smart, creative and flexible in order to be successful these days. Like Roy, he can catch up with the current trend and think outside the box.”*

However, some did not think Roy’s story could be applied to most young people, and regarded this as an exceptional case. One interviewee said, *“our educational system uses academic results to distinguish winners from losers. In Hong Kong, only winners can survive. People who are good at arts and sports do not dare to pursue their dreams. They suffer from low wage. Their friends and families discourage them and disapprove them. It is difficult for you to persist, even not to mention success.”*

Most interviewees find our society “fast-changing”, yet “stressful” and “insecure”. They tend to avoid “risk-taking” and prefer “playing-safe”. They still believe that hard work will pay off, but acquiring adequate skills for work and maintaining network and connections are also other keys to success. We observed that interviewees had undergone struggles between pursuing their interest and sustaining a stable life. On one hand, the career path to pursue a stable life is very clear, stable, safe and mainstream. Individuals who follow a “stable path to success” are those who attain good academic result in public exam, obtain perceivably “useful” degree from a good university with honour, and finally find a decent job, for instance, being professionals or civil servants. Quite common, interviewees express that their worldview or life path has been influenced by their parents and teachers since they are young. They acknowledge that being “practical” can help them to obtain security in an insecure and risky world. On the other hand, the career path to pursue their interest is usually uncertain and not straightforward; people have to take risk that can easily lead to failure. Most interviewees do not think that they could ever become a good entrepreneur. *“I think it is difficult for me to give up my career and develop my own business. The success rate [in general] is meagre. It is very unrealistic.”*

The second newspaper clip (see Appendix 4b) is about university students' job preference with most of them identify civil servants as the best job. According to the research conducted by the Hong Kong Baptist University, around 70% of the respondents reported that they were interested in pursuing their career as civil servants, and 35% of the respondents put civil servants as their first priority. We then asked our interviewees if they would like to work as civil servants.

Working as civil servants is ideal to some interviewees due to “high wage”, “good welfare” and “great prospect”. The career of civil servants is seen stable and forecastable. They believed that they could earn sufficient amount of money to support themselves and their family financially. As most believed that civil servants did not have to work overtime—and perhaps it was a false impression only—they imagined that, with a job like that, it was easier for them to maintain a work-life balance and develop their hobbies after work. Some interviewees found working as civil servants would be quite meaningful, as they could serve the society and community. Some interviewees believed that the civil servant as a career was good of course not because of their wage and welfare. It was seen as an identifiable career path for students who did not study a professional degree or did not have specific career goals. The application of civil servant positions such as Administrative Officer and Executive Officer in general do not require the applicants to attain any professional degrees or acquire any particular skills. Other interviewees echoed, agreeing that they (or some of their friends) were miserable about their future, as they did not know what they wanted to do and what they could do after graduation.

Some interviewees disliked working as civil servants, claiming that the job was bad for personal development and lowering ones' competitiveness. They believe that the job as civil servants focus a lot on procedures and regulations, and hence engage in repetitive tasks daily. Some find the foreseeable career path and the formality of work very dull. Some argue that the job could not help people to climb up the social ladder; they perhaps can sustain a good life, but can never get rich. Some interviewees have specific goals; they would like to acquire more skills and knowledge from their interested field. In their eyes, working for the government is not likely to increase their exposure or enrich their portfolio.

We then asked our interviewees if they preferred working in the private sector or working for the government. Their responses were diverse. Some interviewees enjoy working in the private sector, *“I work as a sales representative. I like my job as I find it very exciting and challenging. We get a bonus when we get more deals. Our wage*

*fluctuates a lot. Some of my colleagues can earn up to \$100,000 in some months while earning only \$10,000-20,000 in other months". To earn more in the private sector, some interviewees regard switching job as a strategy to request a wage raise. "In private firms, they will not increase your wage based to a solid and robust scale. I find some of my colleagues who work in the same company for a very long time are seriously underpaid. Such wage is unreasonable."*

Some do not like working in the private sector as it is more uncertain and unstable. *"I am a pessimistic person. In the past ten years, Hong Kong's economic development has been quite good. Our generation does not experience much about the economic recession. I was just a child during 2003. I think we have to be dynamic while discussing this topic. Stability may not be that important nowadays because the economic situation is good now. What if there is an economic recession? If ones lose that job, how can they pay for their daily expenses and their mortgage? Even if you are capable, you may not be able to find a job, as many firms close down at that time. Therefore, I think that stability is crucial."* Many interviewees find job security very important to them. Therefore, when they identify their career paths, they would choose jobs that are not likely to be replaced. Some interviewees show a different attitude: they do not desire stability at this moment but estimate that they might desire it in a later stage of life. Nevertheless, some interviewees find that security is no longer important nowadays when people consider about their career. They believe that in a constantly changing world, mobility and flexibility are more critical. They have to stay competitive via life-long learning.

The third newspaper clip (see Appendix 4c) quotes what Jo Lam, a Hong Kong celebrity who graduates from the University of Oxford with a major in mathematics. After hearing the news about six HKDSE top scorers all deciding to study medicine in university, he posted on his Facebook and said, "[these students] are merely narrow-minded reading machines, and it is hard for them to have great achievements. They should not bury themselves in the narrow professional world, like performing masturbation."

Most interviewees disagree with Jo Lam's opinion, claiming that he should not pejoratively label the high scorers without knowing why they would like to study medicine. Some interviewees point out that it is prevalent for top scorers to study medicine because only top scorers could attain enough marks to meet the prerequisite of studying medicine. However, a few interviewees feel dissatisfied with the commonplace perception that most parents and students have a fixed class concept on

any occupation. They find it problematic as they believe that different jobs fulfill different functions in the society. While white-collar jobs or professional jobs are important, they are not necessarily better than the blue-collar jobs. They advocate the ideal that all jobs should be ranked equally.

#### 4.3 Respondents' Perception of Housing

In order to understand respondents' perception of housing, we have quoted a question raised by Dr. Joseph Sung on youth's aspiration of housing (see Appendix 4d). The question is: "for youth, is it worth working hard for your whole life and sacrificing your happiness just in order to buy a 'brick' that is smaller than 600 square foot?" We asked if interviewees felt about the answer to this question and how they viewed housing issue as a whole.

For most interviewees, purchasing property is deemed to be extremely difficult and impossible due to the extremely high property prices. Most interviewees report that they never dream about having a flat, claiming that "it is good to have a flat, but it is not a must". Most believe that no matter how hard they try, they would never be able to afford one, as the increase in their wages could never catch up with the rise in the property prices.

While some interviewees set purchasing a flat as their life goal, some do not find that important. According to them, purchasing a property would narrow their choices of future as they would need to safeguard a stable job with sufficient income to repay the mortgage. Their career path would very likely be constrained. They believe that people should not blindly aim for purchasing a flat and follow the pressure or expectation from others in the society.

Most interviewees, including the ones who state that they are not interested in purchasing a flat, acknowledge the stability and security accompanied by ownership of properties. Should another financial crisis come and the price of property fall to a "reasonable price," they would consider purchasing a property. However, most of them still feel hopeless as they do not conceive that housing market would collapse in the coming years in the not distant future.

Most interviewees are currently living with their parents; only very few of them live independently. Among the interviewees that live with their family, most are satisfied about the current condition. Some interviewees, in particular those with foreign

experiences, find moving back home to live is difficult. Constant conflict with family members is the reason why they prefer living independently. One interviewee who has begun to live outside the family since her high school years, said *“I failed to control my schedule after I moved back home. My mum always complained that I had to work at home all the time and did not have time to accompany her. I find getting used to each other’s’ living habit very tired.”* Other interviewees with foreign experience echoed with what she said and reported about the lack of freedom and private space after moving back home. One interviewee mentioned that *“I find that family harmony is fundamental to me. That’s why I have decided to leave my home. I would like to avoid having conflicts with my family members.”*

Most interviewees prefer acquiring a flat to renting a flat, seeing that renting a flat is equivalent to helping others to pay for their mortgage. Given that the cost of renting an apartment is extremely high nowadays, they reason that, if renting a flat uses up a large proportion of their wage, they would prefer buying a flat. At least they feel secure as they own that flat and does not need to move their homes regularly. However, some interviewees prefer renting a flat, saying that, *“Instead of being a ‘brick slave,’ I prefer renting a flat, I can improve my living condition when I move to a new house once in a while. If I purchase my flat, my living quality will deteriorate.”*

Interviewees who would like to acquire a flat in the future is quite practical about how to accomplish their goal. They acknowledge the importance of savings, claiming they tend to give up spending money on leisure activities and reduce daily expenses to save up for their future houses. The sacrifice is “hard but inevitable”. While asking what drive them to pursue such belief, they explain that their sacrifice now is to pave their way for a better future. They would choose to forgo their present desire and look for a higher quality of life after they retired. Planning for the future is very important to them. One of the interviewees said, *“In Hong Kong, you can never expect that the government will support your retirement life. The retirement protection is not enough.... I need a place to live after I retire. I will not be able to afford the rent at that time. I will feel more secure if I have a flat.”*

Most interviewees decide to leave their parents’ home when they are going to get married and established their own families. As Hong Kong born Chinese, most develop and acquire the social norm that they should own flat before getting marriage. Most interviewees who are currently in a relationship conceive that they would get married after the age of 30 because of practical reasons. *“I would like to provide a*

*safe and comfortable place for my family. That's basic. I will delay my plan [of marriage] till I can afford a flat,"* said an interviewee. Another interviewee echoes with him, *"If I would like to marry my girlfriend, her parents would worry that I do not own a flat. The pressure from peer and family about owning a flat is unavoidable."*

We asked interviewees whether they viewed housing as a basic necessity for people or a tool for investment. Interviewees' opinions are diverse. Most believe that housing is treated as an investment tool and a source of secondary income as they also believe that housing market will not collapse easily, and the risk of investing on properties seems to be extremely low. *"The value of cash will depreciate due to inflation, but the value of a house will never fall."* For interviewees who believe that housing should be regarded as a basic necessity. They acknowledge the importance of housing should be given as safe shelter equally to all people. *"People lose their dignity now as they live under poor condition in subdivided flats."*

#### 4.4 Respondents' Perception of Emigration

We showed a newspaper clip to interviewees to probe their perception of emigration. It was a policy statement during the 2017 Chief Executive Election by John Tsang (see Appendix 4e), who mentioned that he did not want to hear any Hong Kong people talking about emigration. However, in the newspaper clip, the report at the same time cited the emigration requirements of Taiwan and Japan. It says, in order to emigrate to Japan, Hong Kong people are required to invest five-million Japanese won (around HKD 340,000) and launch a business for at least ten years in Japan. And in order to emigrate to Taiwan, Hong Kong people are made to invest six-million Taiwan Dollars (around HKD 1.48 million). We then asked our interviewees if they would like to leave Hong Kong and emigrate overseas.

Most interviewees expressed that they did not want to leave Hong Kong and emigrate to foreign countries, and yet desired to gain international working experiences. Working overseas, for them, is conceived as a means for them to acquire life experience, broaden their horizon and improve their competitiveness. Some pointed out that they would like to work overseas as their field of expertise or professions were more developed in certain countries, with bigger markets and more career opportunities.

Interviewees prefer staying in Hong Kong due to various reasons. Interviewees with

foreign experiences generally feel that living in Hong Kong is very convenient in that transportation network in Hong Kong is well-developed and shops are open long hours. Most interviewees mention that they are emotionally attached to Hong Kong as Hong Kong is their home and their root. Interviewees identify several potential challenges they could encounter in foreign countries such as language barrier, discrimination, difficulty in finding jobs and cultural differences.

Some interviewees state their concern regarding Hong Kong's future, believing that if Hong Kong's political situation further worsens and social conditions remain that "extreme", "desperate" and "chaotic", they would leave and emigrate to other countries. They would also seek to move to countries where prices are "cheaper" and quality of life is "better" if they could no longer sustain quality life in Hong Kong.

#### 4.5 Respondents' Perception of Financial Literacy

With the intention of understanding Hong Kong youth's financial literacy, we developed a simple social experiment (see Appendix 4f). Interviewees had to imagine that they received HKD 500,000 as a present and explained how they budgeted their spending. Interviewees naturally demonstrated various means to spend the money, including investment, saving, insurance, start-up fund, gift for family, travel, advanced studies, flat acquirement, repaying school debt, entertainment, daily expense and donation. The most common answer, as we also expected, is that they choose to do investment.

An investment is viewed as an alternative way to accumulate wealth and generate income. They use the term "financial freedom" to describe the outcome of a wealthy status. Most interviewees acknowledged the importance to improve their investment skills. Nevertheless, most reported that they, in fact, knew nothing about investment in terms of strategies, techniques or knowledge. Interviewees with investment experience learnt their skills from older family members and peers. They believe that learning to invest is beneficial for their future. An interviewee said, *"it is good to learn investment when you are still young. Even you lose your money, you can earn that back easily, but if you try that when you are old, you may lose all your wealth."*

#### 4.6 Respondents' Perception of Hong Kong's Future

In order to understand the interviewee's perception of Hong Kong's future, we prompted the interviewees to discuss the issue by means of two diagrams.

The first diagram (see Appendix 4g) illustrated four pictures to represent Hong Kong development from four perspectives, including (1) the rule of law, (2) economic integration of Hong Kong and Mainland China, (3) conservation of countryside, and (4) increase in housing supply. We asked the interviewees to rank these four options according to their priority of development. We later asked them to explain their priority.

Most interviewees think that safeguarding the rule of law is the most crucial one, highlighting that the rule of law is the core of Hong Kong development. Increasing housing supply is also a popular choice among interviewees. They believe that it would be the government's responsibility to increase housing supply and improve Hong Kong people's living standard. One of the interviewees said, "*many people live in subdivided flats nowadays. I also lived in subdivided flat when I was young; the living condition was so poor. It was so small and dirty. It was a torture.*"

The second diagram (see Appendix 4h) illustrated six significant political incidents that happened in recent years, including (1) the Umbrella Movement, (2) the "Reclaim Sheung Shui" protest, (3) the riot in Mongkok, (4) 2017 Chief Executive Election, (5) the Legislative Council (LegCo) oath-taking saga, and (6) Edward Leung's trial. We asked interviewees about their perception of Hong Kong's political future and identified the political incident that triggered them the most.

Most interviewees expressed their pessimism about Hong Kong's political future. They believed that Hong Kong's political situation was getting more and they had become more depressed since the Umbrella Movement. They claimed that deterioration of Hong Kong's core value was evident. A common narrative is that justice, democracy and the rule of law are being threatened due to Mainland China's intervention of Hong Kong affairs. Most interviewees felt "numb", "hopeless" and "powerlessness" while discussing what they could do to improve the political situation in Hong Kong. As most believed that very little and almost nothing could be done to have their voices heard, they decided to remain silent. One interviewee mentioned, "*I was so passionate at that time (during Umbrella Movement), but tend to be ignorant nowadays. I will still discuss with my friends politics or may post my opinion online, but I will never take part in any demonstration again.*"

Most of the interviewees found Umbrella Movement the most unforgettable political incidents that had taken place in recent years. And among them, over half reported

that they had participated actively at that time. One of them mentioned, *“it was the first time I realised that participation of social movements could be life-threatening. I was there on 28<sup>th</sup> September.... Lately, when I saw the student leaders were jailed, I was so angry. They sacrificed their own future for Hong Kong’s future.... I don’t think I will participate [in demonstration] anymore; I do not want to affect my family and friends.”*

Some expressed their oppositional view against the government on the incident about the riot in Mongkok. They argued that the protest was organised under the “peaceful, rational and non-violent” principle they upheld. Many interviewees expressed their distrust of government and political parties, the internal struggle of the Democrats and the disqualification of LegCo members due to improper oath-taking. *“No one can represent me in the [Legislative] Council [any more].... The disqualification of LegCo members has irritated me the most, as I have realised that my vote is being disregarded out of the government’s own will.”*

#### 4.7 Comparison of Focus Group Interviewees’ Incremental Optimism

On top of the above questions, we also asked focus group interviewees about their incremental optimism towards their future, and questions are drafted to cater to different focus groups.

Compared with other focus groups, high school students are most optimistic about their future. Most chose their undergraduate majors based on their interest. They acknowledged the importance of a university degree, conceiving that the degree would be a prerequisite of many occupations. They claimed that if they could not acquire a university degree, they would have fewer choices and have more obstacles in developing their career.

How high school students view their future can be very different from how students with associate degree do. Associate degree students are most pessimistic about their future and they feel themselves very vulnerable. Most students with associate degree are said as the “losers” of the public exam; they viewed the associate degree as a second chance for them to enter university. Some studied the associate degree merely because they would like to delay their employment. When these students chose their majors, most of them were career-oriented, claiming that in case they could not enter university, they could have the right, practical skills and knowledge to find a job. Most of them would choose their career based on money reward and career prospect.

Before conducting the focus group interviewees, we had the impression that working adults with professional degrees should be particularly optimistic about their future, as they are deemed as “winners”. However, in our study, most professionals also expressed that they suffered from low mobility and low competitiveness, claiming that their exposure was limited as well. Professionals from various fields shared similar problems such as keen competition and abundance of professional examinations. They had to surmount many challenges, which some of them felt unreasonable, in order to get an accredited license. They also said that had to work hard to compete with others for a very minimal amount of permanent positions in their field. Some had to take up short-term temporary positions that made them doubly insecure. Professional jobs in sum, for them, are conceived as having the same level of stability as other non-professional jobs do. Similar to other jobs offered in the private sector, the availability of professional jobs is also highly dependent on the economic situation. All these make them nervous, and these affect their perception of future.

## 5. Conclusion

In this final section, after briefly describing the objectives of this study and the research methodology, we will illustrate the main findings of this study under six divisions, including (a) personal and family life, (b) education, career and upward mobility, (c) housing, (d) emigration, (e) financial literacy and (f) Hong Kong future.

### 5.1 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are as follows: (1) To investigate how Hong Kong youth assess the present situation by looking into their perceptions of future; (2) To depict the relation of (a) the factors that affect the perceived future, (b) the perceived future, and (c) the actions in response to the perceived future. In particular, the research highlights that knowing how the youths perceive the future enable us to understand the relation of the macro environment and the behavior of youths; (3) To articulate the public discourses related to the sentiments of the youths to their actual situation. It enables us to assess the strengths and influences of respective public discourse in the public sphere; (4) In a long run, it plans to have the perceptions of Hong Kong's future as the indicators to observe the attitudinal changes of Hong Kong's youth longitudinally

### 5.2 Research Methodology

This study employed both quantitative and qualitative methods to understand Hong Kong youth's perception of future. Data of this study were collected from a mobile phone survey with a representative sample and eight focus group interviews. In total, 803 respondents were sampled in the territory-wide mobile phone survey, and 63 interviewees were recruited to join the focus group interviews.

### 5.3 Summary of the Main Findings

#### (a) Personal and Family Life

- ✧ Respondents were relatively satisfied with their current lives. They were asked to rate their present life satisfaction (0-10 points, 0 point means very satisfied, and 10 points mean very unsatisfied), the mean score is 6.11 with a standard deviation of 1.879.

- ✧ Respondents were relatively optimistic about their future. They were asked to rate their perceived future life (0-10 points, 0 point means very pessimistic, and 10 points mean very optimistic). The mean score is 6.05 with a standard deviation of 1.820. Majority of the respondents (53.8%) believed that their life after five years would roughly be as happy as their present life.
- ✧ Respondents were also quite optimistic about their family's future as the majority of the respondents (55.1%) believed that their family's living condition after five years would likely be improved.
- ✧ More than half of the respondents (55%) found getting help from their personal network during difficult times easy, indicating that most youth maintain a good relationship with their family members, relatives and friends.
- ✧ Factors affecting youth's perception of future are identified. 63.8% of the respondents found salary important to their life, 50.5% found ideal job important, 49.5% found education level important, 49.2% found investment skills important, and 35.1% found flat ownership important. However, it should be noted that none of the above personal determinants had significant effects on young people's political participation. It implies that young people preferred struggling for their own aspiration and do not prefer solving their problem via political participation.

(b) Education, Career and Upward Mobility

- ✧ Quite a significant portion of respondents (44.9%) believed that education is the most important mean for upward mobility. Majority of the respondents (65.7% and 66.2%) agreed that they could improve their financial situation and quality of life through hard work. Respondents possessed a relatively positive view in terms of education, career and upward mobility in Hong Kong, revealing that respondents still have faith in climbing up the social ladder via studying hard and working hard.
- ✧ Respondents who found education level and ideal jobs significant were more optimistic towards their future. We believe that respondents who value education and ideal jobs as their goals of attainment are clearer about what to do to reach a promising future. For example, they will work hard to attain excellent academic result and find an occupation with good career prospect.

- ✧ Most working adults (67.3%) were optimistic about their future career development. Majority of the university students (57%) were also optimistic about securing ideal jobs after they graduate. However, non-degree programmes students and high school students were both uncertain about their chance of enrolling in degree programmes, implying that the competition of degree places is keen.
- ✧ Working adults' optimism towards their career development have a significant effect on their optimism towards their family future, personal future and future happiness. Working adults are deeply concerned about their career development as they have more responsibility towards their family and themselves; they are more likely to endure hardship in life.
- ✧ According to the findings of focus group, in general interviewees found the society “fast-changing”, yet “stressful” and “insecure”. They tended to avoid “risk-taking” and preferred “playing-safe”. Although they still believe that hard and diligent work would pay off, they find acquiring adequate skills and knowledge and maintaining network and connections are more concrete means to success.
- ✧ We observed that the interviewees had undergone struggles between pursuing their interest and sustaining a stable life. The path of stable life is usually clear, stable, safe and mainstream. Attaining excellent result in public exam, obtaining “useful” degrees from good universities with good honour, and finding good jobs such as being professionals or civil servants are practical means to complete a “stable path to success”. Young people who prefer this approach acknowledge that being “practical” can help them to obtain security in an insecure and risky world.
- ✧ Working as civil servants are attractive to some interviewees due to “high wage”, “good welfare” and “great prospect”. The career path is often stable and foreseeable. With such jobs, they conceive that they can maintain work-life balance and develop their interest after work. Such job types also provide clear path for young people who have not had chance to acquire professional degrees or realise their own specific goals. However, some interviewees do find that the career of civil servants is relatively dull and repetitive. Such youth also feel that working as civil servants could not increase their exposure or improve their

competitiveness. When young people have a clear career path, they in general value stability and security, and tend to choose jobs that are not likely to be replaced. Some young people, however, appreciate the importance of mobility and flexibility, tend to stay competitive via life-long learning.

(c) Housing

- ✧ Majority of the respondents (54.7%) believed that acquiring a flat can help them to accumulate more wealth in the future. However, only part of them (35.8% and 32.3%) found that purchasing an apartment is a prerequisite for family formation and life improvement. More than half of the respondents (50.9%) who have not acquired a flat and not capable of buying one presently, estimated that they would not be capable of purchasing one in the coming 5-10 years. It demonstrates that most respondents are relatively pessimistic about flat acquirement
- ✧ Majority of the interviewees found purchasing properties extremely difficult and impossible due to the sky-high property prices. Most believe that “it is good to have a flat, but it is not a must”. However, most interviewees still acknowledge there is a sense of stability and security accompanied by purchasing properties.
- ✧ Most interviewees are currently living with their parents, and most of them are satisfied with the present condition. However, some interviewees, particularly the ones with foreign experiences, find moving back home to live difficult. They reported having constant conflicts with family members and preferred living independently.
- ✧ Majority of the interviewees prefer acquiring a flat to renting a flat, seeing that renting a flat is equivalent to assisting others to repay the mortgage. Most decide to purchase a flat when they are going to get married and form their own families.

(d) Emigration

- ✧ In the survey, 46.1% of the respondents reported their prevalence of emigration if there would be an opportunity.
- ✧ Most focus group interviewees pointed out that they did not want to leave Hong

Kong and emigrate to other countries; what they wanted is the experience of living and working in foreign countries. Working in foreign countries could allow them to experience lives in foreign countries, broaden their horizons and improve their competitiveness.

(e) Financial Literacy

- ✧ Minimal amount of the respondents (18%) agreed that investment could replace education in improving people's standard of living.
- ✧ Focus group interviewees found improving their investment skills critical. They regarded investment an alternative means to accumulate wealth and generated income. Investment could help them to achieve “financial freedom” and maintain a higher quality of life.

(f) Hong Kong Future

- ✧ Majority of the respondents (67.2%) did not participate in any political activities in the past year (August 2017-18). However, it does not mean that they are not concerned about current and public affairs anymore. 63.1% of the respondents spent more than an hour on news consumption via digital means on average per day, and 39.3% of the respondents spent more than an hour on news consumption via traditional media on average per day.
- ✧ Respondents found all five social determinants: (1) employment opportunities (67.7%), (2) general price level (73.2%), (3) price of housing (76.3%), (4) preservation of freedom (66.1%) and (5) democracy (61.8%) important to their perceived future. Democracy, among the above five social determinants, is the most significant social determinant that affects young people’s perception of future. It highlights respondents' deep concern towards universal value like democracy.
- ✧ Respondents are care about employment opportunities, general price level and price of housing but gaining for all these would not significantly increase their political participation. However, their concern towards freedom and democracy have a very substantial effect on political participation. This finding once again suggests that young people do not tend to take part in political participation to improve their personal well-being. They will only participate in politics to

enhance their social well-being.

- ✧ Majority of the respondents (45.6% and 52.8%) believed that future economic situation and quality of life would fairly be the same as present. Nevertheless, most of the respondents (62.2% and 56.7%) believed that future political situation and judicial independence would likely to be worsen. This result demonstrates respondents' pessimism towards Hong Kong's political development and judicial system.
- ✧ All four dimensions are very significant in determining respondents' perception of Hong Kong future. Judicial independence is among the most relevant factor that bothers young people the most. The result echoes with that of the previous sections about respondents' profound concern towards universal value. Judicial independence is also the only significant factor that affects young people's political participation.
- ✧ Respondents were asked to rate future Hong Kong as a whole from 0-10 points (0 point means very pessimistic, and 10 points mean very optimistic). The mean score is 4.42 with a standard deviation of 1.902. Around half of the respondents (49%) rated future Hong Kong from 0-4 points. The result implies that respondents are slightly pessimistic about Hong Kong's future. Young people's pessimism about Hong Kong's future significantly affects their political participation. It implies that youth have a propensity to express their dissatisfaction on social-wellbeing through political participation.
- ✧ Most focus group interviewees were pessimistic about Hong Kong's political future. They felt that Hong Kong's political situation has been becoming more depressing since the Umbrella Movement. The deterioration of Hong Kong's core value is evident. Most interviewees felt "numb", "hopeless" and "powerless" about the current political situation, believing that very little or almost be done to have their voices heard and improve the situation. Some interviewees, who were once very active in political participation, decided not to participate in social movements in the future.
- ✧ However, we have observed that young people will bridge their future with the future of society. If they are more optimistic about their future, they will also be more optimistic about Hong Kong's future. We, therefore, suggest that the government devote more resources to improve different dimensions of young

people's quality of life.

## **6. Policy Recommendations and Implications**

The current policy study probes the future aspirations of Hong Kong youth. As suggested by the study's findings, youth has general grievances regarding the existing political system. Although we acknowledge this issue, it is important at this moment to offer practical solutions to promote the social and economic aspirations of Hong Kong youth. We believe that once their personal practical problems, such as career and financial issues, are solved—in the short or medium term—their trust in the government and the political system will be strengthened. Thus, in this section, we offer seven practical and workable recommendations for government's consideration.

### **(a) Facilitate the Youth Hostel Scheme to Increase the Supply of Transitional Housing for Young People**

Housing has long been a challenging and complex problem faced by Hong Kong youth, as the results of our research showed. According to our findings, most respondents found it difficult to acquire flats due to soaring property prices. Some respondents reported having aspired to live independently, but they had failed to do so because of exorbitant rents.

To establish an effective housing ladder that will assist young people in achieving their aspirations to home ownership, we suggest that the government enhance the supply of transitional housing through the Youth Hostel Scheme.

The Youth Hostel Scheme was first introduced in the 2011 Policy Address (Wan, 2018). The scheme is aimed to unleash the potential of under-utilised sites held by NGOs to fulfill young people's current need for housing accommodation. We believe that the scheme is a realistic alternative for working young people aged 18 to 30 years because it provides independent, short-term living spaces at a relatively low rent; they can make good use of this time to accumulate savings and make plans to solve their long-term housing needs.

According to the scheme, NGOs receive full subsidies to build hostels on their lands and run the hostels on a self-financed basis. The first youth hostel, which is provided by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth, will be completed in the first quarter of 2019. The youth hostel is situated at Taipo and provides 80 living spaces. Six hostels are going to be built in the coming years, which will provide 2,800 living spaces for young people: (1) Po Leung Kuk's project in Ma Tin Pok; (2) the Tung Wah Group of

Hospital projects in Sheung Wan; (3) the Hong Kong Association of Youth Development's project in Mong Kok; (4) the Hong Kong Girl Guides Association's project in Jordan; (5) the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council's project in Yuen Long.

To ensure the efficient turnover of units and enable as many young people as possible to benefit from the scheme, the government should restrict the first tenancy period to two years. Although we do not want to create a social culture in which youth are overly reliant on the government, the tenancy could be renewed upon expiry, and the maximum tenancy of the same individual would be limited to five years. The rent charged by the hostel should not be more than 60% of the rent for private flats of similar size in the area.

Because the number of vacancies will be limited, these hostels will not be able to satisfy the huge demand for transitional youth housing. It is therefore essential that the government continue to identify organisations that could build additional youth hostels to increase the supply of transitional housing and to seek support from interested NGOs to serve the community. The government could also cooperate closely with such NGOs during the construction period. After the youth hostels are built, the government should carefully monitor the NGOs and ensure that the youth hostels are developed and operated according to the original policy objectives.

In addition to facilitating the Youth Hostel Scheme, we recommend that the government increase the supply of public rental housing and affordable subsidised housing in the long term to alleviate the hardship of young people in acquiring a flat. Consistent with the existing governmental strategies, it remains essential to continue seeking developable land and steadily increasing the housing supply.

#### (b) Integrate Financial Education in the Hong Kong Secondary School Curriculum

The results of our research demonstrated that the respondents were interested in investment. However, most believed that they were not financially literate and that they were not capable of managing their finances properly. Compared with the working adults in our study, the high school students had less financial knowledge. Because young people are often especially vulnerable to financial risk, we propose that the government consider introducing financial education into the secondary schools' curriculum to raise the students' awareness of the importance of being financially literate early in life.

Financial education is not currently part of Hong Kong’s secondary school curriculum, but we believe that financial literacy is an essential skill that young people should acquire. Nowadays, working youth and university students are exposed to massive amounts of information about financial products. If they are not financially educated, they may suffer further from financial stability, such as credit card debt and so on. By being financially literate, youth would not fall into financial traps, and they would improve their economic well-being (The Chin Family, 2018). For example, if young people acknowledge the importance of saving and form saving habits when they are young, they will be more prepared for future challenges, such as inflation, increases in the cost of living, and other monetary crises.

Integrating financial education in class activities would not be as complicated as might be expected. For example, teachers could incorporate concepts of money management in home economics lessons; they could assist students in solving daily financial problems, such as how to read their bank statement and plan their budget. To further integrate financial education in the curriculum, the government could provide training for teachers to improve their competence and knowledge about financial literacy. Furthermore, teachers could develop teaching materials, online resources, and mobile apps, such as budget planners and financial calculators, to create comprehensive and exciting learning experiences. Through the active promotion of financial literacy, people would recognise the importance of holistic financial education in Hong Kong.

#### (c) Facilitate Career and Life Planning Education in Hong Kong’s Secondary Schools

According to our research findings, young people are facing an increasing number of challenges in making the transition from education to work. Some respondents stated that even after they graduated from university, they had failed to identify their career path. Most high school respondents declared that entering a university was the only path to success, and they had not explored alternative future paths. There is the mistaken impression that those who are not sure about their career goals or are “not ready” could easily delay their choice of career by studying for a higher diploma or associate degree.

First announced in the 2014 Policy Address, the Career and Life Planning Grant is aimed to strengthen life planning education and career guidance in Hong Kong public sector schools and in Direct Subsidy Scheme schools (Wong, 2017). Schools are

provided with an additional annual, recurring cash grant to enhance their capacity to offer life planning education and career guidance services. We recommend that schools could utilise the grant more efficiently by supporting the participation of needy students in career exploration activities and engaging experts and alumni in various professions to organise career talks and sharing sessions with students. These grants could also enable schools to release workers and allow teachers to provide services that meet the needs of their students.

It is essential to equip career guidance teachers with the skills and knowledge necessary to provide quality career guidance services to students. For example, they should be capable of assisting students in the following: (1) setting clear career goals; (2) understanding their own strengths and weaknesses; (3) making better career decisions. At present, career guidance teachers complete structured training in life planning education and career guidance, which is provided by the Education Bureau or an equivalent institution. However, previous research (Wong, 2017) demonstrated that because the present training is not adequate, teachers are not confident in providing career guidance services to students. We therefore suggest that the appropriate governmental departments organise relevant professional development courses, seminars, talks, and workshops on life planning and career guidance to improve the training of secondary school teachers in these skills and competences. Online courses could also be launched, which teachers could take anywhere and anytime, thus reducing the burden of teachers having to attend classes to receive the additional training.

We advise the government to develop a life planning education curriculum that integrates career development in learning experiences. At present, students usually take part in career-related activities to fulfill the requirements of “other learning experiences.” The government should take the initiative in developing long-term courses in life planning to guide students to achieve meaningful and purposeful lives through developing their careers. Single career talks and site visits could benefit students to a large extent if they were accompanied by follow-up activities. Updating students regarding the current employment market would allow them to explore a variety of available jobs. For example, in knowledge economies that emphasize flexibility, technical knowledge, and life-long learning, many long-term, stable jobs have been restructured as contractual or part-time positions. Many young people are now working as independent contractors, freelancers, and consultants. If students know more about the occupational environment, they will equip themselves better, such as by acquiring the skills necessary to achieve a successful career.

The government should continuously review the effectiveness of both the curriculum and the grant by conducting longitudinal research as well as by designing and revising the curriculum regularly to improve its standards.

(d) Introduce More Non-Means-Tested Welfare Schemes to Alleviate the Prohibitive Effects of the High Cost of Living on Hong Kong Youth

The introduction of more non-means tested welfare schemes would alleviate the prohibitive effects of the high cost of living on Hong Kong youth. Such schemes would alleviate their financial stress effectively and efficiently. Young people are always highly susceptible to changing economic circumstances, yet they are often excluded from Hong Kong's strict and condition-based welfare system. The Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme is an excellent example of an effective non-means tested welfare scheme.

The HKSAR government launched the non-means tested Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme in January 2019 (HKSAR Government Press Release, 2018). The scheme was first introduced in the 2017 Policy Address to relieve the fare burden of commuters that use local public transport services, especially those whose public transport expenses are relatively high. The scheme is simple, as neither application nor registration of Octopus is required. Commuters whose public transport expenses exceed HKD 400 are eligible for the subsidy. The government provides an allowance amounting to 25% of the actual public transport expenses that exceed HKD 400, subject to a maximum of HKD 300 per month. The government has estimated that the amount of the annual subsidy would be around \$2.3 billion and that over 2.2 million commuters would benefit from the scheme.

(e) Organise Internship, Exchange, and Placement Programs Through Tertiary Institutions and NGOs

Because most respondents in our study expressed interest in experiencing life overseas, we propose that the government cooperate with Hong Kong's tertiary institutions and NGOs to provide more internships, exchange programs, and placement opportunities abroad for Hong Kong youth. Foreign experience not only broadens young people's horizons but also encourages cultural exchanges and improves competitiveness in the job market.

Moreover, because of the prospective development of the Greater Bay Area (HKSAR government, 2019), the government could also work with industrial sectors, NGOs, and corporations to arrange internships or placements for Hong Kong youth. Such schemes would not only help them augment their life and work experiences. In the long term, it would also shift their impressions of the mainland in a positive direction.

(f) Promote the Bilateral Working Holiday Scheme and Organise more Sharing Sessions

In 2001, the Labor Department launched the Bilateral Working Holiday Scheme to create more opportunities for Hong Kong youth to appreciate the cultures and the development of other countries (Labour Department). It has established arrangements with 13 countries, including New Zealand, Australia, Ireland, Germany, Japan, Canada, Korea, France, the United Kingdom, Austria, Hungary, Sweden, and the Netherlands, which has allowed youth aged 18 to 30 years to gain living and working experiences when they travel abroad. More than 85,000 Hong Kong young people have participated in the scheme. We believe that youth can acquire foreign experience by joining the scheme. However, it is understandable that young people are anxious about leaving Hong Kong and experiencing an entirely different ways of life in other parts of the world. Therefore, more sharing sessions with youth who has experienced working holidays could be organised for youth who would like to take part in the scheme. The exchange of knowledge and experience would be meaningful and fruitful for both parties.

(g) Promote Working Opportunities in China, Particularly the Greater Bay Area

Because of the increasing importance and financial growth of the Greater Bay Area, at this moment, it is important to create working opportunities for Hong Kong youth so that it will be the first generation to enjoy the benefits of the expected economic growth in this region (HKSAR government, 2019). It is true that Hong Kong young people neither familiar with the Greater Bay Area nor are they equipped—psychosocially or practically—to work on the mainland. Thus, it is important that we first increase their awareness and understanding of such opportunities and the national plan, perhaps through formal and informal education. Second, as suggested earlier, the government could facilitate their employment in the Greater Bay Area. After acquiring real jobs and establishing reasonable housing conditions, Hong Kong youth would feel financially secure, and their long-term economic aspirations could be achieved.

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## Appendix 1

### 「香港青年對未來的看法」意見調查 調查概況

調查方法	以隨機抽樣的方式，利用電腦輔助電話訪問系統，由訪問員進行電話訪問	
調查日期	2018 年 8 月 23 - 24、27 - 31、9 月 3 - 15、18 - 21、25 日 (共 25 天)	
調查對象	15至30歲，能操粵語的人	
抽樣方法	將通訊事務局已經發出的手提電話號碼字頭(首四位數字)，編配 0000 至 9999 共一千組的四位數字於每個號碼的後方，做成一個電話號碼庫。從這個電話號碼庫中隨機抽出號碼，並跟據過往經驗盡量剔除無效號碼。	
電話號碼的處理方法	撥出的電話號碼若遇無人接聽、線路繁忙等，電腦系統會安排訪問員在不同日期或時段再次致電，致電三次皆未能成功訪問，便會停止致電該號碼；但若有一次被拒絕，便會立刻停止致電。	
樣本數目	803 個成功個案	
抽樣誤差	± 3.5% 以內 (可信度設於 95%；即代表有 95% 信心，百分比誤差會在這範圍以內。)	
回應率	37%	
以下為撥出電話號碼的情況，以及回應率的計算方法：		
撥出的電話號碼總數		101414
<b>A. 確定不適合訪問的電話號碼數目 (Ineligibles)</b>		54675
A1. 無效號碼	48035	
A2. 商業電話	126	
A3. 傳真 / 數據機 / 傳呼機	232	
A4. 無合適被訪者	6282	
<b>B. 未確定有沒有合適被訪者的電話號碼數目 (Unknown)</b>		45542
B1. 無人接聽	29796	
B2. 線路繁忙	1024	
B3. 密碼阻隔	141	
B4. 語言不通	698	
B5. 掛線前仍未確定為合適被訪者	13883	
<b>C. 確定有合適被訪者的電話號碼數目 (Eligibles)</b>		1197
C1. 拒絕訪問 (包括訪問中途拒絕)	291	
C2. 合適的被訪者未能在調查期間接受或完成訪問	103	
C3. <u>成功訪問</u>	<u>803</u>	
回應率的計算方法如下：		
Completed / [Eligibles + Unknown x Eligibles / (Eligibles + Ineligibles)]		
= 803 / [1197 + 45542 x 1197 / (1197 + 54675)]		
= 0.3696 (即 37%)		

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## Appendix 3



### 第一部份 抽樣及確定

#### 介紹

你好。呢度係 中文大學 傳播與民意調查中心 打嚟架，我哋受中大教授委託，做緊一項有關「香港未來發展」嘅意見調查，啲題目好簡單，想訪問 15 至 30 歲嘅人。

#### 確定

請問先生/小姐/女士 你依家係唔係 15 至 30 歲嘅香港永久居民呢？

- 係
- 唔係 【讀出「唔好意思，我哋想訪問 15 至 30 歲嘅香港永久居民，拜拜。」，終止問卷】

**DM1. 性別 【不用問】**

1. 男
2. 女

**第二部份 問卷題目**

Q1. 你每日平均用幾多時間，透過報紙、雜誌、電視、電台等傳統媒介接收時事同公共事務嘅資訊呢？

Q2. 你每日平均用幾多時間，透過互聯網或社交媒體接收時事同公共事務嘅資訊呢？

Q3. 你每日平均用幾多時間，留意政治團體、政治人物或意見領袖嘅言論、活動或其他動向呢？

- |               |                    |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. 無          | 4. 31 至 45 分鐘      | 7. 多於 1.5 小時至 2 小時 |
| 2. 1 至 15 分鐘  | 5. 46 至 60 分鐘      | 8. 多於 2 小時         |
| 3. 16 至 30 分鐘 | 6. 多於 1 小時至 1.5 小時 | 9. 無答案 / 拒絕回答      |

以下有啲句子，想知道你同唔同意。你可以俾 1 至 5 分，1 分代表「非常唔同意」，5 分代表「非常同意」，3 分代表「一般」。

Q4. 「喺香港，人人都享有平等嘅機會」，你同唔同意？1 至 5 分。

Q5. 「喺香港，只有家境富裕嘅青年人先有機會接受優質教育」，你同唔同意？1 至 5 分。

Q6. 「喺香港，教育係青年人向上流動嘅最重要途徑」，你同唔同意？1 至 5 分。

Q7. 「喺香港，與其努力讀書，不如學習投機炒賣」，你同唔同意？1 至 5 分。

Q8. 「喺香港，買樓係成家立室嘅首要條件」，你同唔同意？1 至 5 分。

Q9. 「喺香港，買樓係改善生活嘅首要條件」，你同唔同意？1 至 5 分。

Q10. 「喺香港，買樓有助日後累積更多財富」，你同唔同意？1 至 5 分。

1-5：\_\_\_\_\_分      6. 無答案 / 拒絕回答

Q11. 你依家有無買左樓呢？

若答「無」，追問「咁你認為自己係 1. 依家已經有能力買樓、2. 依家無能力買樓但五至十年後會有，定係 3. 五至十年後都唔無能力買樓呢？」

1. 已買了樓

2. 未有物業，但現在已經有能力買樓
3. 現在無能力買樓，但五至十年後會有
4. 五至十年後都無能力買樓
5. 無答案 / 拒絕回答

**Q12.** 如果有機會，你會唔會希望離開香港移民到外地呢？係非常唔希望、幾唔希望、一半半、幾希望，定係非常希望呢？

1. 非常唔希望
2. 幾唔希望
3. 一半半
4. 幾希望
5. 非常希望
6. 無答案 / 拒絕回答

**Q13.** 假如你生活遇到困難，你容唔容易得到家人、親戚或朋友嘅支援呢？係非常唔容易、幾唔容易、一般、幾容易，定係非常容易呢？

1. 非常唔容易
2. 幾唔容易
3. 一般
4. 幾容易
5. 非常容易
6. 無答案 / 拒絕回答

**Q14.** 整體嚟講，你有幾滿意自己依家嘅生活狀況呢？你可以俾 0 至 10 分，0 分代表「非常唔滿意」，10 分代表「非常滿意」，5 分代表「一般」。你俾幾多分呢？

- 0-10 \_\_\_\_\_ 分      11. 無答案 / 拒絕回答

**Q15.** 你認為五年後，你屋企嘅生活狀況比起依家，會係一定更差、多數更差、大致一樣、多數更好，定係一定更好呢？

1. 一定更差
2. 多數更差
3. 大致一樣
4. 多數更好
5. 一定更好
6. 無答案 / 拒絕回答

**Q16.** 以下係想問你一啲關於學業或工作嘅問題，所以想知道你依家係學生，在職人士定係待業人士呢？

1. 學生
2. 在職人士
3. 待業人士
4. 其他

**Q17.** 你接受教育到乜嘢程度呢？讀緊都計嘅。

若答「大專或大學」，追問：「係高級文憑、副學士、學士學位，定係碩士或博士？」

若答「學士學位」，追問：「係政府資助定係自資課程？」

1. 無正式教育 / 幼稚園
2. 小學
3. 初中
4. 高中
5. 專上教育（非學位）：副學士課程

6. 專上教育（非學位）：其他非學位課程
7. 專上教育（學位）：政府資助學士學位課程
8. 專上教育（學位）：自資學士學位課程
9. 研究院（碩士、博士課程）
10. 其他（註明\_\_\_\_\_）
11. 無答案 / 拒絕回答

（只問在職人士，即在 Q16 答 2 的受訪者）

**Q18a.** 你認為五年後，你嘅工作或事業比起依家，會係一定更差、多數更差、大致一樣、多數更好，定係一定更好呢？

1. 一定更差
2. 多數更差
3. 大致一樣
4. 多數更好
5. 一定更好
6. 無答案 / 拒絕回答

（只問大學生，即在 Q16 答 1 並在 Q17 答 7-9 的受訪者）

**Q18b.** 畢業後，你認為你有幾大機會可以做到心目中理想嘅工作呢？係一定無機會、多數無機會、一半半、多數有機會、定係一定有機會？

1. 一定無機會
2. 多數無機會
3. 一半半
4. 多數有機會
5. 一定有機會
6. 無答案 / 拒絕回答

（只問非學位課程的大專生，即在 Q16 答 1 並在 Q17 答 5-6 的受訪者）

**Q18c.** 你係依家嘅課程畢業後，有無打算入讀本地大學或其他大專院校嘅學位課程呢？\_

若答「有」，追問「咁你認為有幾大機會可以入讀到本地學位課程呢？係一定無機會、多數無機會、一半半、多數有機會、定係一定有機會？」

1. 一定無機會
2. 多數無機會
3. 一半半
4. 多數有機會
5. 一定有機會
6. 不打算繼續升學 / 打算到海外升學
7. 無答案 / 拒絕回答

（只問中學生，即在 Q16 答 1 並在 Q17 答 3-4 的受訪者）

**Q18d.** 中學畢業後，你有無打算繼續係本地升學呢？\_

若答「有」，追問「咁你認為有幾大機會可以入讀到心儀嘅本地大學或大專院校呢？係一定無機會、多數無機會、一半半、多數有機會、定係一定有機會？」

1. 一定無機會
2. 多數無機會
3. 一半半
4. 多數有機會

- 5. 一定有機會
- 6. 不打算繼續升學 / 打算到海外升學
- 7. 無答案 / 拒絕回答

**Q19. 你同唔同意「你可以憑努力，改善自己嘅經濟狀況」呢？係非常唔同意、幾唔同意、一半半、幾同意，定係非常同意呢？**

- 1. 非常唔同意
- 2. 幾唔同意
- 3. 一半半
- 4. 幾同意
- 5. 非常同意
- 6. 無答案 / 拒絕回答

**Q20. 你同唔同意「你可以憑努力，改善自己嘅生活質素」呢？係非常唔同意、幾唔同意、一半半、幾同意，定係非常同意呢？**

- 1. 非常唔同意
- 2. 幾唔同意
- 3. 一半半
- 4. 幾同意
- 5. 非常同意
- 6. 無答案 / 拒絕回答

**Q21. 你認為以下邊啲因素，對你將來生活嘅好與壞有決定性影響呢？1. 學歷、2. 有無理想工作、3. 薪金、4. 投資理財能力、5. 有無自置居所、6. 有無結婚。最多可以揀三個。**

- 1. 學歷
- 2. 有無理想工作
- 3. 薪金
- 4. 投資理財能力
- 5. 有無自置居所
- 6. 有無結婚
- 7. 無答案 / 拒絕回答

你認為以下嘅社會因素，對決定你將來生活整體好與壞有幾重要呢？你可以俾 1 至 5 分，1 分代表「非常唔重要」，5 分代表「非常重要」，3 分代表「一般」。

**Q22. 「香港就業環境」，對決定你將來生活好壞有幾重要呢？ 1 至 5 分。**

**Q23. 「香港物價水平」，對決定你將來生活好壞有幾重要呢？ 1 至 5 分。**

**Q24. 「香港房屋價格」，對決定你將來生活好壞有幾重要呢？ 1 至 5 分。**

**Q25. 「香港維持各種自由，例如言論和出版自由等等」，對決定你將來生活好壞有幾重要呢？ 1 至 5 分。**

**Q26. 「香港政治制度民主化」，對決定你將來生活好壞有幾重要呢？ 1 至 5 分。**

- 1-5：\_\_\_\_\_分
- 6. 無答案 / 拒絕回答

**Q27.** 你認為五年後，你喺香港生活會唔會比依家快樂呢？係一定更不快樂、多數更不快樂、大致一樣、多數更快樂，定係一定更快樂呢？

1. 一定更不快樂
2. 多數更不快樂
3. 大致一樣
4. 多數更快樂
5. 一定更快樂
6. 無答案 / 拒絕回答

**Q28.** 整體嚟講，你對自己未來嘅整體生活狀況係樂觀定悲觀呢？你可以俾 0 至 10 分，0 分代表「非常悲觀」，10 分代表「非常樂觀」，5 分代表「一般」。你俾幾多分呢？

0-10 \_\_\_\_\_ 分      11. 無答案 / 拒絕回答

以下係想知道你對未來香港社會嘅睇法。

**Q29.** 你認為五年後，香港整體「經濟狀況」比起依家，會係一定更差、多數更差、大致一樣、多數更好，定係一定更好呢？

**Q30.** 你認為五年後，香港整體「政治狀況」比起依家，會係一定更差、多數更差、大致一樣、多數更好，定係一定更好呢？

**Q31.** 你認為五年後，香港整體「生活質素」比起依家，會係一定更差、多數更差、大致一樣、多數更好，定係一定更好呢？

**Q32.** 你認為五年後，香港「司法獨立」比起依家，會係一定更差、多數更差、大致一樣、多數更好，定係一定更好呢？

1. 一定更差
2. 多數更差
3. 大致一樣
4. 多數更好
5. 一定更好
6. 無答案 / 拒絕回答

**Q33.** 整體嚟講，你認為香港社會嘅未來係樂觀定悲觀呢？你可以俾 0 至 10 分，0 分代表「非常悲觀」，10 分代表「非常樂觀」，5 分代表「一般」。你俾幾多分呢？

0-10 \_\_\_\_\_ 分      11. 無答案 / 拒絕回答

**Q34.** 過去十二個月，你有幾經常參與政治活動，例如參與聯署、遊行示威、捐款比政治團體、又或向政府官員或政治人物表達意見呢？係無、甚少、間中、頗多，定係經常呢？

1. 無
2. 甚少
3. 間中
4. 頗多
5. 經常
6. 無答案 / 拒絕回答

**Q35. 喺 2016 年立法會選舉地區直選，你有無投票呢？係有投票、無投票，定係當時不是選民呢？**

1. 有投票
2. 無投票
3. 當時不是選民
4. 無答案 / 拒絕回答

**第三部份 被訪者基本資料**

最後想問一啲基本資料，只係用嚟做統計分析。

**DM2. 請問你依家幾多歲呢？**

- \_\_\_\_歲                      99. 拒答

**DM3. 請問你係唔係已婚，又或者曾經結過婚呢？**

若答「無」，追問：「咁你估計自己大約會喺幾多歲左右結婚呢？」

1. 16-19
2. 20-24
3. 25-29
4. 30-34
5. 35-39
6. 40-44
7. 45-49
8. 50 或以上
9. 已婚 / 曾經結婚
10. 不會結婚
11. 無答案 / 拒絕回答

**DM4. 請問你係唔係香港出世呢？**

若答「不是」，追問：「請問你係中國內地、台灣、澳門，定係海外出世呢？」

1. 香港
2. 中國內地
3. 台灣、澳門或海外
4. 拒絕回答

**DM5. 請問你屋企，每個月嘅家庭總收入大約係幾多呢？**

(包括人工、生意收入、儲蓄利息、投資利潤、領取綜援、生果金等)

1. \$5,999 或以下
2. \$6,000—\$9,999
3. \$10,000—\$14,999
4. \$15,000—\$19,999
5. \$20,000—\$24,999
6. \$25,000—\$29,999
7. \$30,000—\$39,999
8. \$40,000—\$49,999
9. \$50,000—\$59,999
10. \$60,000—\$79,999
11. \$80,000 或以上
12. 無答案 / 拒絕回答

呢次訪問完成啦，多謝你接受訪問，唔該晒，拜拜！



## 【筍工？】浸大調查：八大學生近七成欲考公務員 三成半列首志願 (13:24)

8+    讚好 2,342

A-A   



圖1-1 - (明報製圖 / 資料圖片)



不少人視公務員工作為「鐵飯碗」，每次招聘都吸引不少人報名投考。浸大調查訪問八大院校的大學生，發現近七成學生有意報考公務員，當中三成半人更視此為第一志願。



## 6 DSE 狀元均盼從醫 林作爆粗轟短視

林作  
牛津數學系畢業生

思想狹隘嘅讀書機器  
難有大成就  
唔係自慰式埋首狹窄專業世界

## 今年文憑試 12 狀元簡介

姓名	性別	就讀學校	升學志願
陳詠妍*	女	協恩中學	港大或中大醫科
楊志聰*	男	華英中學	科大環球商業
許延鋒*	男	聖保羅男女中學	劍橋經濟
黃蕊獻	女	聖保羅男女中學	中大中文
黃浩維	男	聖保羅男女中學	港大法律
黃曉晴	女	聖保祿中學	港大法律
徐詠然	女	聖保祿中學	中大政政
黃靖桐	女	嘉諾撒聖瑪利書院	港大醫科
麥志鏘	男	英皇書院	港大醫科
馬國鳴	男	皇仁書院	港大或中大醫科
譚梓恆	男	聖士提反書院	港大英文
姚本杰	男	九龍華仁書院	醫科（昨未定學校）

\*除 4 個核心科及 3 個選修科考獲 7 個 5\*\* 級外，亦於數學延伸單元 M1 / M2 獲 5\*\* 級，三人屬「超級狀元」。製表：高鈺



日本

永久居留權需投資  
500萬日圓 (約34萬港元)  
開公司及經營滿10年

台灣

投資移民  
500萬新台幣  
(約148萬港元)

不希望再聽到有人說要移民

港人移民熱點申請門檻

Topick.com  
hknet.com



請排列以下項目在香港未來發展議程的優先次序（1=最重要）  
維護法治 中港經濟融合 保育香港郊野 增加房屋供應

( )



( )

( )



( )



**2017 行政長官選舉**  
Chief Executive Election

還十八萬選民政治權利

反對 目標 落實 選民 實效  
公辦 選民 意向 不買

反對 18萬選民 政治權利  
反對 18萬選民 政治權利  
反對 18萬選民 政治權利  
反對 18萬選民 政治權利  
反對 18萬選民 政治權利

明報

事實上，梁是錯的，  
非錯在舉辦了選舉遊行，  
而是錯在  
「佢抱真誠，  
真誠到冇的幼稚，  
幼稚到冇的咁嘅幻想」

梁天琦代表律師

## **Details of the Public Dissemination Held**

(1) After the completion of the project, we will hold a press conference about the findings of this research project. Academics and media will be invited to join the press conference, while colleagues, teachers, students and the general public are welcomed to join. We will contact PICO when we have confirmed the details of the event.

(2) We are going to publish academic papers and newspaper articles based on the research finding in the coming future. So far, we have submitted an article 「香港青年對到內地發展的觀感、考慮及相關政策」 to the Journal of Youth Studies, Youth Research Centre, the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups. We have included some preliminary finding of this research in this paper. This paper is currently under review.

(3) The Chinese University of Hong Kong pulls together an interdisciplinary team, including our research team and scholars from psychology, medical science and Institute of Future Cities to develop a youth project that tackles their social and psychological stress. Data from this project will be used to tackle the social part of the project.