

## Wednesday Gender Seminar

Co-organized by Gender Studies Programme and Gender Research Centre, CUHK

# The Hidden Side of the Tongzhi Movement: Narratives from Older Gay Men in Hong Kong

**Date:** 29th October 2014 (Wednesday)

**Time:** 12:30pm - 2:00pm

**Venue:** CKB109 (Chen Kou Bun Building)

**Speaker:** Dr. Travis Kong Shiu Ki (Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, The University of Hong Kong)

**Moderator:** Dr. Cho Man-kit (aka siu CHO, Lecturer in Gender Studies Programme, CUHK)



### Description:

Based on an ongoing oral history project of older gay men (60+) in Hong Kong since 2009, this paper discusses how they have negotiated same-sex intimacy in everyday sites in the 1940-50s when they were teens and at present (2000s-) when they become older. Using a post-structuralist conception of power/resistance and identity formation, this paper argues that the major everyday sites such as the family home, the public toilet, and even gay exclusive space are all sites of governmentality/resistance, domination/subversion and surveillance/desire. Class and age are two important social capitals of Hong Kong gay men to manoeuvre in various hierarchical social and sexual spaces. Through their radical use of space, this paper shows how a tongzhi counterpublic can be imagined, created and practiced under heteronormativity and homonormativity in both the heterosexual and the homosexual worlds. By challenging the public/private forms of intimacy and by exposing the domination of hetero/homo-normativities of tongzhi lives, this paper rethinks the meanings of tongzhi liberation and resistance in Hong Kong.

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