Faculty of Education
CUHK 中大教育

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Departmental Seminar

Community-engaged Scholarship in Developmental Science: Supporting Children, Educators, and Families from Asset-based Approaches

Prof. Jingjing SUN

University of Montana

SPEAKER

Growing up in Suzhou, Anhui, Jingjing has called Missoula–the beautiful mountain town in western Montana on the ancestral territories of the Salish and Kalispel People–her home since 2015. Now a Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Montana, Jingjing's research centers on children's cognitive and social-emotional development, with an emphasis on promoting academic engagement and wellbeing among all children. The privilege to work with Indigenous communities on the Flathead Nation, as well as schools in urban and rural settings in both the U.S. and China, has profoundly shaped Jingjing's worldviews and research programs. Collaborating with community leaders, educators, and interdisciplinary colleagues, Jingjing's work examines the impact of broader ecological systems, including culture, land, and community, on learning and children's social and emotional development in school. Further, Jingjing is passionate about supporting educators' learning and wellbeing. She helps teachers integrate collaborative discussions and social-emotional learning into their regular classroom practices. Besides research, Jingjing enjoys mentoring. She loves supporting the next generation of scholars in developing expertise in sophisticated mixed-methods designs and community-based participatory research.

When she's not in the classroom or gathering with community partners, you may find Jingjing being immersed in historical fiction, writing her family memoir, twisting and turning on the ice, and chasing her young child down river paths and ski mountains.



ABSTRACT

Child development research in the Global Majority contexts, where 85% of the world's population lives, persist to remain on the margins of developmental science. Drawing on the well-documented benefits of Community-Engaged Research (CEnR) across education, public health, and social sciences, I argue that CEnR offers a vital framework for expanding our understanding of child development through equitable collaborations with families and communities across the Majority World.

In this talk, I will first present three key principles and processes of CEnR, based on a synthesis of an interdisciplinary body of literature at the intersection of CEnR and child development. I will then present examples from my team's research using CEnR to support children's social and emotional learning in schools. I will conclude by sharing practical considerations for integrating CEnR into research design, offering a roadmap for emerging educational researchers and developmental scientists committed to advancing research for community good and well-being of community members.

Date:
24 Nov 2026 (Tue)

Time:
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Venue:
Room 201, 2/F,
Ho Tim Building, CUHK

Language:
English

ALL ARE WELCOME

Registration Deadline:
23 Nov 2026

Enquiry:
Tel: 3943 6213

Online Registration:
https://cloud.itsc.cuhk.edu.hk/webform/view.php?id=13746024