



Department of Educational Psychology
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Departmental Seminar

To conform or not to conform? That is the question. Preschoolers' conformity to peers' moral, social, and health behaviors

Abstract

Young children's independent or conformist behaviors in a group setting reveal much about how children discriminate trust in others. If we have been encoded this sensitivity to agree or disagree with the group majority at an early age, to what function does it serve us? How important are peers, adults, and culture in helping us determine who to trust when making a decision? In this talk, the speaker will review studies that explore how preschoolers (3-5 year-olds) conform in different scenarios and the role of peers in facilitating their development. The speaker will cover the diverse methods (modified classic social psychology paradigms, cross-cultural methods, computer-simulation games, etc.) used to explore conformity in early childhood. Research findings suggest that peers (even ones that are not present) can change initial judgments and behavior in domains of social importance. Furthermore, parenting, age, and BMI were found to be associated with some measures of conformity rates, suggesting that socialization and some inherent traits were likely to be related to peer influence in these decision-making domains.

Dr. Elizabeth Kim

National University of Singapore

About the speaker

Dr. Elizabeth Kim is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Centre for Family & Population Research, National University of Singapore. Her research focuses on conformist behaviors in early childhood. In particular, her work explores how preschoolers deal with positive and negative social pressure by peers across various domains (ex. moral judgments, health behaviors) and cultures (individualistic v. collectivistic). Dr. Kim received her Ph.D. in Psychology & Social Behavior from University of California Irvine, her Ed.M. in Human Development & Psychology from Harvard Graduate School of Education, and her B.A. in English from Wellesley College. Her research has been supported by Fulbright Scholar Program, U.S. National Science Foundation, and Agency for Science, Technology, & Research (A*STAR), among others.

Online Registration

https://www3.fed.cuhk.edu.hk/faculty/applications/EPS_Seminar_20210118



Registration Deadline

14 January 2021

Date

18 January 2021 (Monday)

Time

10:15 am – 11:45 am

Venue

Zoom

(Details will be provided on 15 January 2021)

Enquiry: 3943 6213
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All are welcome