香港浸會大學 HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
社會科學院 FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
40 ANNIVERSARY
地理系 Department of Geography

Department of Geography --- Public Seminar Series

"Mismanaged plastic waste: far side of the moon"

Speaker:
Dr. Lincoln Fok
Associate Professor, the Department of Science and Environmental Studies
The Education University of Hong Kong

Date: 21st February, 2019 (Thursday)
Brown lunch: 1:00 – 1:30 pm
Presentation: 1:30 – 3:00 pm

Venue:
Room AAB1312, Multi-purpose Room, Faculty of Social Sciences
Academic and Administration Building (AAB), Baptist University Road Campus
Hong Kong Baptist University

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Plastic is one of the most efficient materials and was designed to be strong, light, resistant to degradation and highly moldable both chemically and physically. Due to these advantageous properties, plastics are used in all walks of life. We are currently living in the "Plastic Age" where the presence of plastic is ubiquitous. However, effective methods and technologies to deal with end-of-life plastic products have not been developed and applied. The net result is the generation of an ever-growing amount of plastic waste. Part of this waste can escape the waste management system and enter the environment, accidentally or otherwise. Once in the environment, mismanaged plastic wastes will fragment into smaller and smaller pieces, and pose a notable threat to the health of our environment, in particular to the biota. At present, plastic debris has been found in numerous marine organisms, including those intended for human consumption. Because direct human health risks associated with mismanaged plastic waste have yet to be established, statutory controls on the use plastics will be difficult and at best, piecemeal. Nonetheless, mitigation measures of this pervasive issue should progress from an end-of-pipe approach to preventive strategies, with a final goal to eliminate all single-use plastic products.

Dr. Lincoln Fok is an Associate Professor of the Department of Science and Environmental Studies. He is a believer of, and practices experiential learning. By training, his research focuses on hydrology and geomorphology with a particular concern on the impacts of water and sediment quantity and quality along with their implications on the environment. More recently, his research has also been extended to marine debris, eco-tourism, protected area management, environmental consciousness and education for sustainability.