

In Memoriam - Professor Tang Wing Shing



The Department of Geography at Hong Kong Baptist University is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Professor Tang Wing Shing (鄧永成教授), a recently retired long-serving faculty member, on 26 January 2024. He passed away peacefully surrounded by his closest family, friends, and students. His passing will be deeply missed by all who knew him, and we extend our deepest condolences to his family.

Professor Tang was born and raised in Hong Kong. He went to Canada in the 1970s to study geography at the University of Waterloo and then McGill University. He later obtained a master's degree from the University of Toronto in 1981. He joined the Geography Department of the then Hong Kong Baptist College from 1982 to 1989 as an Assistant Lecturer before being promoted to Lecturer. He successfully completed his Ph.D. thesis in the Department of Land Economy at the University of

Cambridge. In 1998, Prof Tang was recruited again as a faculty member in our Department, where he served until his retirement in 2018, and he remained as an Adjunct Professor for a few more years. Throughout his academic career, he was an enthusiastic lifelong teacher and researcher of urban geography, critical geography, and spatial justice. He was known for his hard work, dedication, and passion for helping others. Prof Tang made tremendous contributions to the development of our Department.

Prof Tang taught at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. He mainly taught the undergraduate courses of Urban Geography, Urban Planning, Urban Development and Planning in Hong Kong, and Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta: A Survey. In our Department, he supervised 7 M.Phil. theses and co-supervised a number of Ph.D. students. He loved spending time with his students and sharing different viewpoints, organising seminars and other activities to discuss critical academic issues. He was always there to provide guidance, support, and encouragement to his students no matter what challenges they faced.

Prof Tang contributed to the organisation of the Departmental Seminar Series and several overseas field camps in Southeast Asian countries, such as South Vietnam (2003) and Malaysia (2004). He also co-organised other field camps, such as Yunnan (2014). The field camps helped students to broaden their horizons and practise their fieldwork skills.

Prof Tang helped to strengthen the international academic links of our Department on various fronts. Over the years, he hosted a number of visiting scholars and organised many academic conferences. For example, as part of the Elizabeth Chan Cheng E-lay Academic Lecturer Series, he invited world-renowned scholar Professor David Harvey to our campus in March 2005 to deliver a lecture on urban space issues. Prof Tang had co-organised a workshop on Chinese cities and an international conference on Asian cities with two Visiting Fulbright Scholars in our Department, Prof Carolyn Cartier in 2006 and Prof Nihal Perera in 2007 respectively. The papers presented at the latter conference were published in a book co-edited by Prof Tang and Prof Perera. He had organised the East Asian Regional Conference in Alternative Geography twice, in 2001 and 2016 respectively. All this had fostered the internationalisation of our Department.

Within the University, Prof Tang promoted interdisciplinary collaboration. He had conducted funded research projects with faculty members in the Departments of History, Sociology, and Social Work.

Colleagues from other Departments and Faculties often attended and presented papers at the workshops and conferences he organised.

Prof Tang was the Director of the Hong Kong Sub-Centre of the former Osaka City University's Urban Research Plaza, and he held many visiting positions at various universities during his tenure in our Department. Prof Tang was also the founder of Hong Kong Critical Geography Group. Since its establishment in 2004, it had become an important social practice project in his life.

The Department would like to express its sincere gratitude to Prof Tang for his contribution and dedication to the Department. His memory will be cherished by all who knew him. His teachings, practice, selfless enlightenment, and contributions to academia and society will never be forgotten. Please click on the following link to read the obituary notice from Prof Tang's family, to leave a tribute or message for Prof Tang's family, and to register to receive information about funeral arrangements: <https://bit.ly/in-memory-of-prof-tang-wing-shing>

**Department of Geography,
Hong Kong Baptist University**