

1st Impact Café of Project – Trust and the Smart City

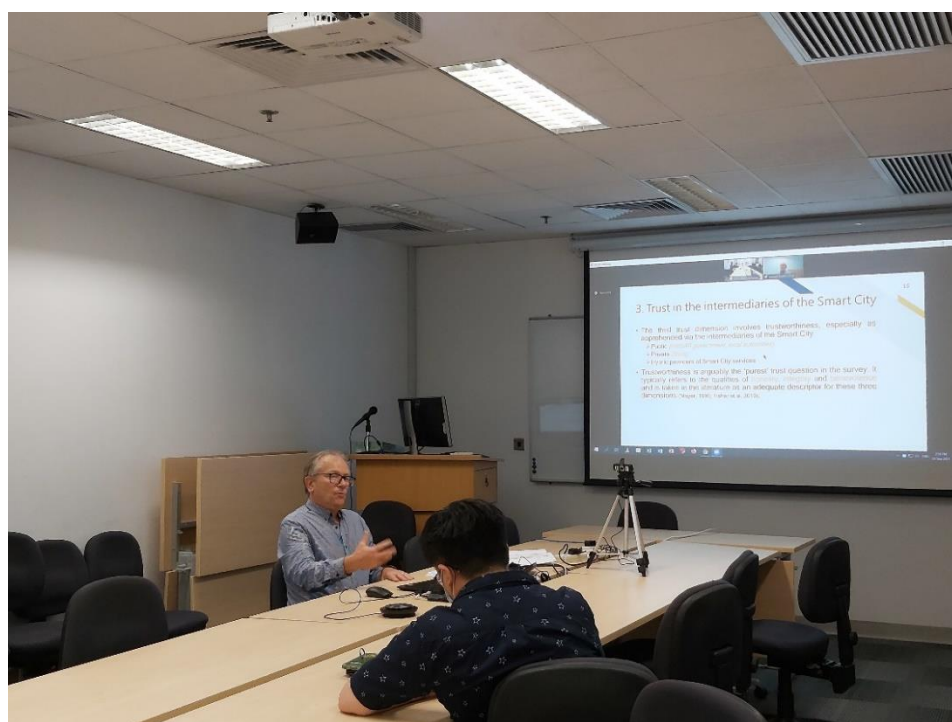
“Reporting back on the Trust and the Smart City Survey”

Date: Thursday, 23 September 2021

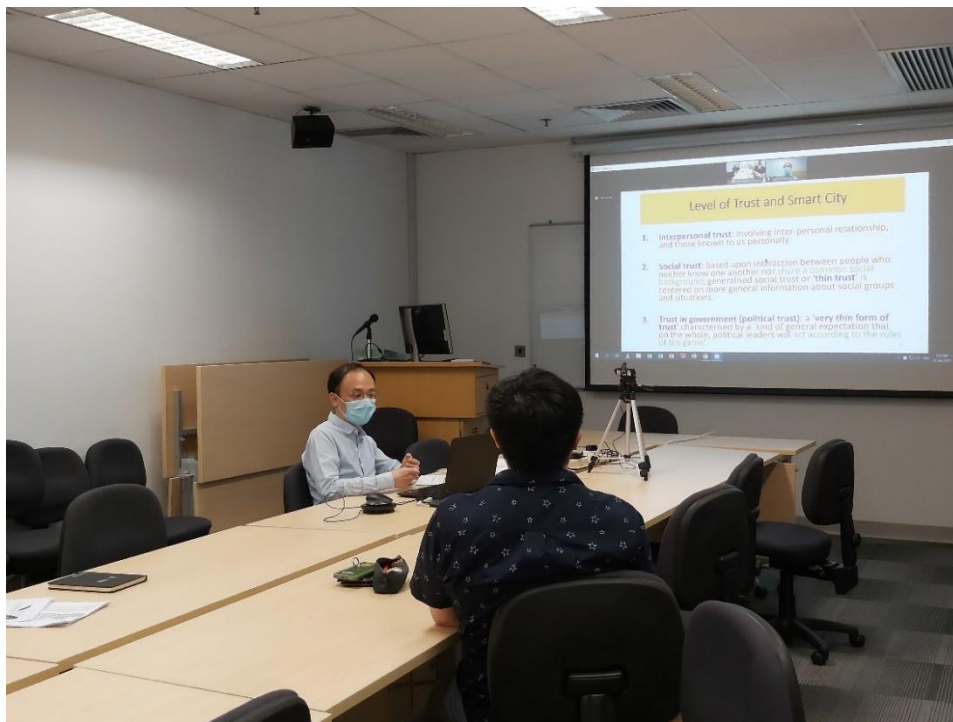
Summary

The first impact café “Reporting back on the Trust and the Smart City Survey” was held on 23 September 2021, at the Faculty of Social Science, HKBU, co-organized by the Department of Government and International Studies, and the Comparative Governance and Policy Research Centre. It was the first impact café of the project “Trust and the Smart City”, funded by the University Research Committee and the Faculty of Social Science, HKBU, as part of its Faculty Niche Research Area Programme (RC-FNRA-19/20-SOSC1). The event was successfully organized as the kickstart of the second phase of the project.

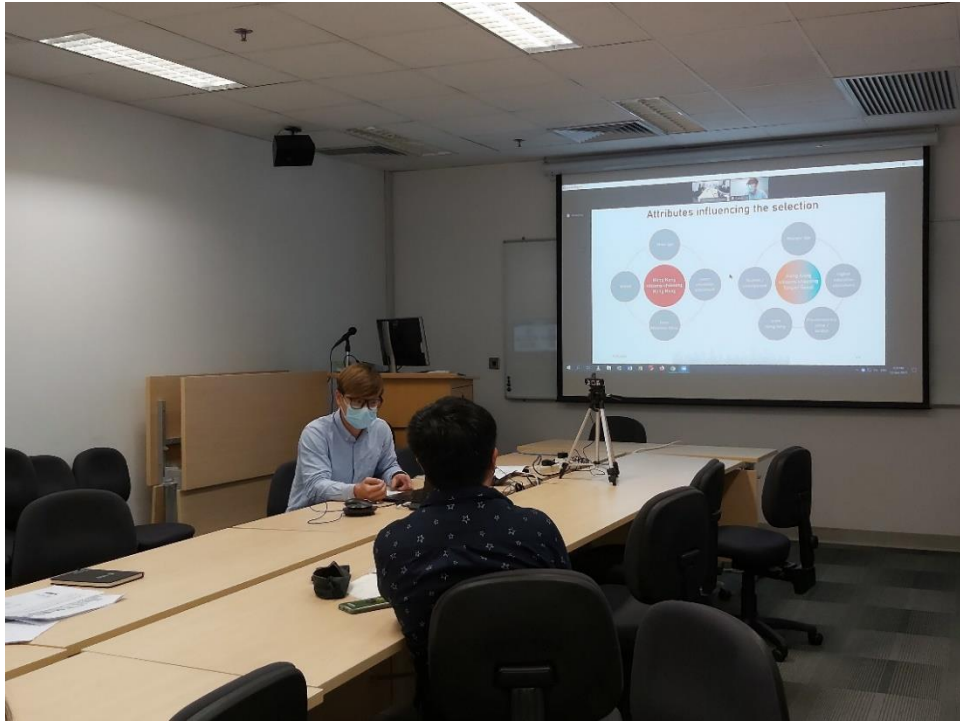
The main theme of this impact café was to report back on results of the Trust and the Smart City Survey, which was conducted by Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute (PORI) from March to April 2021. This event was divided into three sessions. The first presentation as well as the welcome speech was delivered by Prof. Alistair Cole, the Head of the Department of Government and International Studies, and the principal investigator of this project. He intensively interpreted the aims and the progress of this project, and further emphasized and explained the linked phenomena of trust and the smart city development. In addition to a brief opening, Prof. Cole also presented several findings and observations from the survey, and introduced the next two presentations.



Dr. Darren Cheung Man Wai, the post-doctoral research fellow from the Asian Energy Studies Centre and the Department of Geography, gave the second presentation. Being an expert in statistical analysis, Dr. Cheung illustrated the relationship between trust, the implementation of public policies, and the support of Hong Kong citizens. He especially focussed on the complex relationship between the trust of the citizens in the smart city technologies, such as the smart IDs, smart lampposts, and “LeaveHomeSafe” app, and the trust in the institutions providing smart city services, such as the Legislative Council, District Council, and the private sectors. His preliminary conclusion of a data trust paradox (high trust in technology in a low trust setting) successfully set the ground for the subsequent presentation.



The final presentation was delivered by Mr. Calvin Lai Ming Tsun, the senior research assistant of the Department of Government and International Studies. He brought us the analysis of the survey from the innovative angle of international comparison, and the interrelationship between the local pride, supportiveness, and Hong Kong’s smart city image with public trust. In the talk he underlined the importance of trust for enabling citizens to embrace urban technologies, and therefore to facilitate smart city development.



Following the three comprehensive presentations, a fruitful and inspiring discussion was ignited by Dr. Kenneth Chan K. L. and Dr. Emilie Tran. Topics including the political inclination of citizens, the nature of technologies and the paradox of data management with privacy were covered. Prof. Cole also announced the forthcoming plans and directions of the project.





Approximately 10 faculty members were present with participants from other organizations. The first impact café of the project was well-received by the audience both online and office. We are grateful to all the participants for co-creating a successful kickstarting event.