Call for Abstracts

International Doctoral Symposium:
Global Perspectives on Social Problems, Policy, and Practice: Media, Markets, and Human Well-Being in a Digital Future

Hong Kong Baptist University
March 8 - 12, 2027

The rapid transition toward a digital future, intersecting with ongoing demographic and ecological changes, is reshaping how media and markets influence human well-being globally. Artificial intelligence and digital communication have undoubtedly created new forms of connectivity and social opportunity. Yet, this transformation also introduces complex policy challenges across diverse social arenas. While technological and market evolution can drive economic growth, they often deepen existing inequalities, leading to stark disparities in urban housing, employment, and inclusive development. At the same time, these rapid shifts place new pressures on youth, families, and mental health, while adding complexity to global patterns of migration and displacement. These dynamics disproportionately affect marginalized populations and place significant strain on social service systems and governance models. Addressing these multifaceted issues demands innovative, cross-sector collaboration among state, market, civil society, and philanthropic actors. As these stakeholders navigate their evolving roles, effectively communicating rigorous social research becomes essential to shaping responsive policies and driving meaningful public impact.

This doctoral symposium will provide an opportunity for selected doctoral students from nine universities— Fudan University, Hong Kong Baptist University, Nanyang Technological University, Seoul National University, University of British Columbia, University of Chicago, University of Melbourne, University of Michigan, and University of Toronto— to present their work and engage in scholarly exchange and networking with their counterparts around the world. We are particularly interested in abstracts that speak to one of six themes:

- AI, Digital Communication, Markets, and Social Inequality
- Migration, Displacement, Demographic Change, and Social Policy
- Urban Inequality, Housing, Work, and Inclusive Development
- Youth, Families, and Mental Health amid Technological and Ecological Change
- Philanthropy, Social Innovation, and Cross-Sector Responses to Social Problems
- Communicating Social Research for Policy and Public Impact

The doctoral symposium also aims to establish a sustained network for doctoral students. To facilitate meaningful connections, the program will include dedicated sessions for student networking and scholarly exchange. Additionally, the symposium will feature a specialized Journal Publication Roundtable. Drawing upon the firsthand experiences of

recently published doctoral students and established faculty members, this roundtable is designed to provide practical insights into the academic publishing process and support early scholarly career development. Furthermore, the "Doctoral Micro Seed Grant Competition" will be officially launched. This global initiative is designed to catalyze cross-institutional collaboration among doctoral students and accelerate the development of thoughtful, high-impact publications. Doctoral candidates are highly encouraged to seize this opportunity to forge intellectual synergies and translate visionary concepts into rigorous collaborative scholarship.

The symposium will last for five days from March 8-12, 2027 (from Mon to Fri). The symposium will also include site visits to local communities experiencing, and organizations addressing, relevant contemporary social problems. Students are expected to participate fully in all sessions.

Interested doctoral students should provide **a 300–500-word abstract** of the paper they wish to submit.