



Transforming research into social impact

研究轉化 社會影響



The everyday realities of subdivided flat residents include frequently obstructed by spatial constraints, and strategies to avoid electrical overloads. **Prof Ruby Yuen Shan LAI**, Assistant Professor of Lingnan's **Department of Sociology and Social Policy**, and Hong Kong artists **Ms Miu LAW** and **Mr Victor Chung Tat SHAM** have focused public attention on the stories behind the exhibition "**My Belongings, My Sound Stories in 118.4 sq.ft.**", which highlights the narratives behind the possessions and every day labour of subdivided unit residents, demonstrating how residents transform an inadequate domestic space into homes. Prof Lai aims to raise public awareness of recent policies on basic housing units and to encourage active engagement in policy discussions.

Since 2021, Prof Lai has been studying the lives of families in subdivided units, and has visited over 50 households across the New Territories and Kowloon. With assistance from Lingnan students who have helped gather tenants' stories, she has made her research into an artistic project that seeks to create a meaningful social outcome.



Photo credit: hongnin



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This project seeks to show and acknowledge the invisible domestic labour these tenants undertake to transform inadequate dwellings into functional and livable homes. Such homes are not only places where people live, but also where they can give and receive care. I hope that this will highlight the intricate connections between housing conditions, individual and family well-being, and the social policies that shape our living environments and everyday experiences in urban and domestic spaces.

項目旨在呈現劏房住戶所承擔的無形家務勞動，並對他們將不適切居所轉變為實用宜居的家的付出予以認同。這樣的家不僅是棲身之所，也是他們能給予照顧，和獲得照顧的地方。我冀藉此凸顯住屋條件、個人與家庭福祉，以及社會政策下城市與家庭空間的居住環境與日常之間的複雜關係。

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狹窄的生活空間、避免跳掣的用電攻略 ... 常人眼中的種種不便，都是劏房戶的日常。嶺大社會學及社會政策系助理教授黎苑姍與兩位香港藝術工作者羅妙妍女士及岑宗達先生透過展覽「所有：聽見 118.4 呎的聲音故事」，讓大眾把焦點轉到了劏房住戶的所有物件和日常勞動，透過展出住戶的生活用品及珍藏物件，呈現出街坊如何打破空間局限，把百尺一隅修築成家。黎教授冀藉此提高大眾對近期簡樸房政策的認知，鼓勵他們積極參與政策討論。

黎教授一直研究劏房家庭生活，自 2021 年起走訪新界和九龍區逾 50 戶劏房家庭。是次展覽將她的研究轉化為別具意義且帶來社會影響的藝術項目，嶺大學生亦參與其中，協助收集街坊的物件故事。

“Many visitors discussed housing issues and policies, and these contacts have given us valuable insights and deep reflections, reinforcing the importance and impact of our work,” Prof Lai concludes.

Prof Lai's recent publication about subdivided units:
The effect of dwelling size on the mental health and quality of life of female caregivers living in informal tiny homes in Hong Kong

黎教授總結道：「許多參觀者分享了對住屋問題及政策等的看法，這些互動為我們帶來了深刻反思，深化了研究的意義和影響。」

黎教授有關劏房的最新著作：

《The effect of dwelling size on the mental health and quality of life of female caregivers living in informal tiny homes in Hong Kong》■