

Lingnan University 2024/2025 SDG Report

SDG 16 – PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



219

Undergraduate Courses



28

Researchers



543

Research Outputs



85

Research Projects and Grants

Lingnan University is committed to advancing SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions through research, education, and community initiatives that promote transparency, inclusiveness, and accountability. By addressing issues of governance, social justice, and institutional reform, Lingnan scholars contribute to building fairer and more resilient societies. Through interdisciplinary collaboration and evidence based research, the University supports the creation of effective, rights respecting institutions that foster peace and justice locally and globally.

Selection of Bureaucrats under Weak State Capacity: Evidence from the Democratic Republic of Congo

This study directly advances SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by examining how to build effective and accountable public institutions in fragile and conflict affected states. Drawing on survey data from more than 3,300 bureaucrats in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the research compares traditional discretionary hiring—often influenced by patronage and social connections—with merit based recruitment through competitive exams.

A key focus is the Young Professionals Program (YPP) launched in 2017 with support from the World Bank, which introduced a standardized national exam administered by an independent firm. This institutional reform strengthened transparency, reduced political interference, and

linked recruitment to clear career incentives. The analysis finds that the YPP dramatically improved bureaucratic quality: selected candidates had on average 1.7 more years of education, were 39 percentage points more likely to hold a college degree, and scored higher on cognitive assessments. These findings show that well designed, rule based recruitment systems can significantly enhance state capacity even in environments with weak oversight.

However, the study also reveals an unintended consequence: greater gender inequality. Female participation declined by 16.4 percentage points under the new merit based process, underscoring that institutional reforms can reinforce exclusion unless equity is deliberately built into their design.

Overall, this research provides compelling evidence that strong institutions require not only formal rules but also effective institutional design—marked by external oversight, transparency, and fair career incentives. It highlights both the potential and the limits of merit based recruitment in fragile contexts and offers valuable lessons for governments and international organizations seeking to strengthen civil service systems while safeguarding inclusiveness and gender equality.

World War II Commemoration and the Pursuit of Just, Inclusive Societies

The “Uncovering Forgotten Heroes” workshop series (September–November 2025), organised by Prof. Kai Yang and sponsored by the Governance and Bureaucracy Laboratory (GovBur), advances SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by examining how societies pursue justice and peace through inclusive remembrance and civic participation.

The poster is for a workshop series titled "Uncovering Forgotten Heroes Workshop Series". It is organized by the Department of Government and International Affairs, Governance and Bureaucracy Lab at Lingnan University, Hong Kong. The main theme is "BRINGING THE REMAINS OF FALLEN SOLDIERS HOME: REFLECTIONS ON 20 YEARS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE". The language is Mandarin. A circular photo of the speaker, Sun Chunlong, is shown. He is a man in a blue suit, holding a microphone. The text describes his background as a former journalist who spent time in Myanmar, met a Chinese volunteer soldier, and then spent 20 years leading a team to care for 11,980 World War II veterans, find the remains of 1,965 fallen soldiers, and help 400 families find missing relatives.

Uncovering Forgotten Heroes Workshop Series

**BRINGING THE REMAINS OF FALLEN SOLDIERS HOME:
REFLECTIONS ON 20 YEARS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

Language: Mandarin

他曾是一名記者
前往緬甸金三角採訪毒梟時
偶遇一位滯留於此的中國遠征軍老兵
此後20年
他帶領團隊
照顧11980位二戰老兵
找到1965具陣亡將士遺骸
幫助400多個家庭找到在戰爭中失散的親人

Speaker:
孫春龍
Sun Chunlong
Founder of the Weiai Zhige Public Welfare Institute

Lingnan 嶺南大學
University 香港 Hong Kong
Department of Government and
International Affairs
Governance and Bureaucracy Lab

Timed to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, the series focuses on recovering the stories of forgotten war veterans—an act of historical justice vital to fostering a truthful and collective memory. Bringing together scholars, filmmakers, and NGO leaders, the workshops explore the interplay between civil society, historical accountability, and public memory, highlighting how non-state actors contribute to peacebuilding and institutional resilience.

Partner organisations such as the “Peace & Love” Welfare Institution and various war-themed museums demonstrate how community based institutions preserve individual dignity, identify fallen soldiers, and safeguard veterans’ narratives. These efforts underscore the ethical responsibility of memory and the pursuit of justice for those historically overlooked.

Beyond commemoration, the series provides students and the public with deeper understanding of the politics of recognition, policymaking, and social reconciliation. It encourages reflection on how confronting historical injustices contributes to long term peace and inclusive governance.

By bridging history, civil engagement, and policy research, this initiative exemplifies Lingnan University’s commitment to building a just, peaceful, and reflective global community, demonstrating that sustainable peace depends on societies’ willingness to remember, acknowledge, and learn from the past.



Corporate Power, Epistemic Injustice, and Democratic Governance

Dr. Kwok Chi's research advances SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by examining how corporate power can undermine democratic governance, accountability, and social justice. His project, "Epistemic Injustice and Corporate Arrangements," funded by the Early Career Scheme of the Hong Kong Research Grants Council, investigates how corporate structures shape who is able to know, speak, and be heard in economic and political life.

Through a series of peer reviewed publications—including *"The Epistemology of Corporate Power"* (*Journal of Applied Philosophy*), *"Temporal Control at Work"* (*Journal of Social Philosophy*), and *"Epistemic Dispossession in Platform Capitalism"* (*Social Epistemology*)—Dr. Kwok demonstrates how corporations can distort information flows, silence marginalized voices, and redirect risks and responsibilities onto workers and citizens. His findings show that when firms control data, communication channels, and workplace time, they weaken public deliberation, regulatory oversight, and the protection of fundamental rights.

Reframing corporate governance as an issue of institutional justice, Dr. Kwok's research integrates political philosophy with empirical studies of platform work and global value chains. He proposes normative principles and institutional reforms to democratize decision making, strengthen transparency, and secure workers' participation in governance.

Beyond academia, the research provides conceptual and policy tools relevant to corporate law reform, platform regulation, and business and human rights frameworks. By clarifying how legal and organizational arrangements can either entrench or counter corporate domination, it supports the development of institutions that safeguard vulnerable groups, enhance participation in economic life, and align business practices with democratic and ethical values.

In doing so, Dr. Kwok's work contributes directly to the creation of inclusive, accountable, and rights respecting institutions, advancing the broader goals of SDG 16.