Alliance of Asian Liberal Arts Universities (AALAU)

Symposium on Economic Globalization and Regionalization: Implications for Higher Education, Graduate Employment and Intergenerational Equality

6 September 2019
@ National Cheng Chi University, Taiwan
## Programme

### Abstracts

#### Session 1 Internationalization and Regional Student Mobility
- Economic-driven? International student mobility in Asia
- Challenge 2020: Student mobility in European Higher Education Area
- An analysis of the determinants of international student mobility: application of gravity equation
- The Number does not count, but the quality does - Student mobility and Needs for Quality Assurance

#### Session 2 Globalization and Graduates’ Employability
- How was “Employability” being viewed from rankers and QA agencies: Implications for university’s policy in Taiwan
- The generation of irrelevance? A critical review of the impact of fourth industrial revolution on higher education
- Predicting graduates’ job success by mathematical and affective abilities, learning STEM and liberal Arts, and original family economic status
- Graduate employment at a glance: A review of literature by using science mapping tool

#### Session 3 Economic Development and Equality in Higher Education
- Social policy preferences in the era of welfare reform in three East Asian welfare states: An intergenerational issue?
- Higher education for whom? Family background and higher education massification
- The impact of college expansion on occupational and income mobility of the young adult in Taiwan
- Intergenerational justice and sustainability: Pathways for a green economy

#### Session 4 Regionalization and Social Development
- Calling for regional development and collaboration: Young people’s perceptions and evaluations of the development opportunities in the Greater Bay Area in South China
- Social integration between Hong Kongers and Mainlanders in Hong Kong: Social distance and intergenerational difference
- Health literacy, health status and social support in Ghana: Implications for intergenerational equity
- Foreign aid effectiveness in the global knowledge-based economy: The case of Haiti
- Immigration and public attitudes towards social assistance: Evidence from Hong Kong
## PROGRAMME

**Venue:** Conference Room 313, College of Education, National Chengchi University

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<td>9.30 am – 9:45 am</td>
<td><strong>Welcoming Session</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>Opening Remarks</em>&lt;br&gt;Prof Chao-Yu Guo, National Chengchi University&lt;br&gt;Prof Angela Hou, National Chengchi University&lt;br&gt;Prof Ka Ho Mok, Lingnan University&lt;br&gt;<strong>Group Photos</strong></td>
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<td>9.45 am – 11.00 am</td>
<td><strong>Session 1  Internationalization and Regional Student Mobility</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>Chair: Prof Ka Ho Mok, Lingnan University, Hong Kong</em>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Economic-driven? International student mobility in Asia</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sheng-Ju Chan, National Chung Cheng University&lt;br&gt;Hsuan-Fu Ho, National Chiayi University&lt;br&gt;Chia-Yu Yang, National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan&lt;br&gt;<strong>Challenge 2020: Student mobility in European Higher Education Area</strong>&lt;br&gt;Hua-Chi Chou, Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan, Taiwan&lt;br&gt;<strong>An analysis of the determinants of international student mobility: Application of gravity equation</strong>&lt;br&gt;Yi-Hsuan Huang, National Chengchi University, Taiwan&lt;br&gt;Cheng-Ta Wu, National Chengchi University/ University of Kang Ning, Taiwan&lt;br&gt;<strong>The Number does not count, but the quality does - Student mobility and Needs for Quality Assurance</strong>&lt;br&gt;Hajime Nishitani, Hiroshima University, Japan</td>
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<td>11.00 am - 11.30 am</td>
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<td>11.30 am – 1:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Session 2  Globalization and Graduates’ Employability</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>Chair: Prof I-Hua Chang, National Chengchi University</em>&lt;br&gt;<strong>How was “Employability” being viewed from rankers and QA agencies: Implications for university’s policy in Taiwan</strong>&lt;br&gt;Angela Yung Chi Hou, National Chengchi University, Taiwan&lt;br&gt;Connie Can Yang, National Chengchi University, Taiwan&lt;br&gt;Dewin Justiniano, Higher Education Evaluation &amp; Accreditation Council of Taiwan, Taiwan&lt;br&gt;<strong>The generation of irrelevance? A critical review of the impact of fourth industrial revolution on higher education</strong>&lt;br&gt;Weiyan Xiong, Lingnan University, Hong Kong&lt;br&gt;<strong>Predicting graduates’ job success by mathematical and affective abilities, learning STEM and liberal arts, and original family economic status</strong>&lt;br&gt;Mei-Shiu Chiu, National Chengchi University, Taiwan&lt;br&gt;<strong>Graduate employment at a glance: A review of literature by using science mapping tool</strong>&lt;br&gt;Chao-Yu Guo, National Chengchi University, Taiwan&lt;br&gt;Meihua Zhu, National Chengchi University, Taiwan</td>
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<td>1.00 pm – 2.00 pm</td>
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2.00 pm - 3.15 pm  
**Session 3  Economic Development and Equality in Higher Education**

Chair: Prof Angela Hou, National Chengchi University

*Social policy preferences in the era of welfare reform in three East Asian welfare states: An intergenerational issue?*

Chung-Yang Yeh, Soochow University, Taiwan  
Yeun-Wen Ku, National Taiwan University, Taiwan

*Higher education for whom? family background and higher education massification*

Grace I-Jung Lu, Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan, Taiwan  

*The impact of college expansion on occupational and income mobility of the young adult in Taiwan*

Ping-Yin Kuan, National Chengchi University, Taiwan  
Ssu-Chin Peng, National Chengchi University, Taiwan

*Intergenerational justice and sustainability: Pathways for a green economy*

Paulina Pui-Yun Wong, Lingnan University, Hong Kong

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3.15 pm - 3.45 pm  
**Tea Break**

3.45 pm – 5.15 pm  
**Session 4  Regionalization and Social Development**

Chair: Prof Ping-Yin Kuan, National Chengchi University

*Calling for regional development and collaboration: Young people’s perceptions and evaluations of the development opportunities in the Greater Bay Area in South China*

Ka Ho Mok, Lingnan University, Hong Kong  

*Social integration between Hong Kongers and Mainlanders in Hong Kong: Social distance and intergenerational difference*

Jin Jiang, Lingnan University, Hong Kong

*Health literacy, health status and social support in Ghana: Implications for intergenerational equity*

Padmore Adusei Amoah, Lingnan University, Hong Kong

*Foreign aid effectiveness in the global knowledge-based economy: The case of Haiti*

Nephtaly Andoney Pierre-Louis, National Chengchi University, Taiwan

*Immigration and public attitudes towards social assistance: Evidence from Hong Kong*

Alfred Muluan Wu, National University of Singapore, Singapore

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5.15 pm - 5.30 pm  
**Closing Remarks**

Prof Ka Ho Mok, Lingnan University  
Prof Angela Hou, National Chengchi University
Along with the rise of cross-border education and globalization, attracting international student have been an essential element for greater international competitiveness and even economic growth. It is against this wider context that a wide range of Asian countries have been launching diverse policies, measures or initiative in order to cater for the needs of inflow students. Some countries even set up certain student number target for accountability management at the national level. However, in this grand race, there are few comparative studies analyzing Asian student's motivations for transnational mobility in quantitative way. This article using analytic hierarchy process (AHP) technique intends to examine what are the major determinants influencing students' choice with respect to study abroad in six Asian countries. Among the four dimensions estimated, economics is the most powerful determinant followed by finesse, life and academics. Surprisingly, academic dimension retains the least weights when Asian students consider to study overseas. The economic-driven strategy is consistent with the instrumental purpose of personal occupational development. Moreover, students from different countries have various considerations with the previous dimensions and factors. These differentiated developments bring significant implications to economic regionalization and graduate employment. In addition, these different preferences and considerations can provide in-depth information in designing differentiated marketing strategies for various Asian students.

Keywords: transnational mobility, internationalization, foreign student, determinants
Challenge 2020: Student mobility in European Higher Education Area

Hua-Chi Chou
Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan, Taiwan

Since 1999, the establishment of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) has been the most important reform of higher education in European Union (EU). One of the main purposes of the EHEA is “student mobility”, which aims to promote accessibility of talent across the EU. To achieve this goal, the EHEA has adopted strategies such as building European qualification framework (EQF), European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), recognition quality assurance system and support for disadvantaged students, which are expected to be completed by 2020. In order to understand the latest progress of EHEA, this study attempts to review the related documents of EHEA from three different perspectives, including the official EHEA 2018 implementation report, European University Association (EUA) report and the report of the European Student Union (ESU), and summarize the challenges faced by EHEA.
An analysis of the determinants of international student mobility: Application of gravity equation

Yi-Hsuan Huang
National Chengchi University, Taiwan

Cheng-Ta Wu
National Chengchi University, Taiwan
University of Kang Ning, Taiwan

International student mobility (ISM) has become more frequent in the era of globalization. Countries are committed to recruiting international students through higher education policies, and identifying the determinants of international student mobility is the key to effective policies. This paper aims to examine the determinants of student mobility on the global level, inter-continental level, intra-continental level, and Taiwan's New Southbound Policy level, applying the gravity equation and illustrating in the context of Push-Pull theory. Based on data from international datasets, regression analysis is conducted with national-level data of 74 countries worldwide in 2016. The result reveals that international student flow has evolved into new patterns currently with the emergence of regional education hubs, and the diverse directions of mobility have weakened the effect of basic and advanced variables significant in previous research. This paper also shed light on the crucial role of technological innovation and education quality factors, and countries with a higher Human Development Index attract more international talents, especially for global and inter-continental mobility. Generally, the empirical study encourages countries for the pursuit of excellence in a global society, to effectively enhance the pull effect of international talents, and leads to the success of higher education policies.

Keywords: international student mobility, gravity equation, push-pull theory, multiple level analysis, New Southbound Policy
Mobility in higher education has distinguished patterns among countries. In Japan and US (updated with the data from Taiwan), the short term study abroad programmes are attracting more students due to the tuition fee burden and job market. This trend causes the issue of quality control over the programmes. Subjective satisfaction surveys, even though they were administered before and after the programmes, do not generate meaningful results due to the face validity issues in the question items and reactions tinted with social desirability. This presentation illustrates different patterns which can be observed among countries and the results from an objective test approach toward the quality assurance. Using theBEVI (http://thebevi.com/), a psychology based mixed methods measure based upon over 25 years of research and practice in the U.S. and internationally, we can now analyse the results of the student mobility.
How was “Employability” being viewed from rankers and QA agencies: Implications for university’s policy in Taiwan

Angela Yung Chi Hou
National Chengchi University, Taiwan
Connie Can Yang
National Chengchi University, Taiwan
Dewin Justiniano
Higher Education Evaluation & Accreditation Council of Taiwan, Taiwan

The issue of graduate employment and the linkage of higher education to the labour market have become the top of higher education policy in Taiwan. Recently, there is an urgent call from employers that higher education should equip students with sufficient grasp of employability skills. The trend led to discussions on how Taiwan higher education institutions enable students to build core competencies during a period of study years to better their role in a society. At the same time, pressured by international competitiveness and global rankings, more and more universities tend to incorporate “graduate’s employability” and “employers’ satisfaction” as the key performance indicators. Hence, it is expected that all programs at universities should be related to enhancing employability skills via employers’ engagement within the internal quality assurance mechanism. Through external review of academic programmes and regular feedback from alumni and employers on the extent to which they think graduates are adapted to the demands of the labour market.

The purpose of the study is to explore the working concepts of employability from the perspectives of Higher Education Evaluation & Accreditation Council of Taiwan and QS global rankings. Both agencies have developed a variety of standards, criteria and indicators to assess graduates’ employability and institutional effectiveness. Four top research universities in Taiwan will be selected as case studies to realize how the QA standards and ranking indicators are implicated into university’s policy.

Keywords: employability, quality assurance, global ranking
The generation of irrelevance?
A critical review of the impact of fourth industrial revolution on higher education

Weiyan Xiong
Lingnan University, Hong Kong

The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) that features the exponential technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), bioengineering, and Internet of Things (IoT) has brought a great impact on the labor market. With more and more job being taken over by AI, some scholars suggested 4IR will lead to a “generation of irrelevance” because of the increasing power of AI and big data, and more significantly, because the skills and knowledge emphasized by current higher education cannot meet the needs of the labor market in the 4IR era. Through an extensive literature review, this article examines the impact of 4IR on higher education from the angle of needed labor skills in the changing job market. Ultimately, this article answers two questions. What will render the generation of irrelevance? And what skills should higher education emphasize to prepare their students for the 4IR era?
Predicting graduates’ job success by mathematical and affective abilities, learning STEM and liberal arts, and original family economic status

Mei-Shiu Chiu
National Chengchi University, Taiwan

This study examines how longitudinal, ecological factors predict graduates’ job success. The ecological theories and positivity-to-success hypothesis suggest a hypothetical model that graduates’ job success (income and professionalism) at early adulthood are predicted by their positive bioecological systems (mathematical and affective abilities), microsystems (learning STEM and learning liberal arts in higher education), and exosystem (original family income), controlling for macrosystems (gender, studying STEM, present job status, and highest education levels) over time (chronosystem). Path analyses using R with lavaan package examines the model with cohort data from the Taiwan Education Panel Survey (TEPS) for grades 7 to 12 students and its followed-up TEPS-B for the cohort members at age 24-25 years (2,684 graduates). The analysis results reveal that graduates’ job income is predicted by their bioecological systems and exosystem; graduates’ job professionalism is predicted by the microsystem of learning liberal arts, bioecological systems, and mesosystem, in descending order. The results suggest implications for educational practices: (a) Cultivating basic cognitive and affective abilities can address most job success. (b) Inequality in job success persists due to potential original family support. (c) Learning liberal arts in higher education is essential for job professionalism.
ABSTRACT

Graduate employment at a glance: A review of literature by using science mapping tool

Chao-Yu Guo
National Chengchi University, Taiwan
Meihua Zhu
National Chengchi University, Taiwan

With the pace of globalization accelerating and its impact expanding, graduate employment continues to be a serious and growing problem. This study aims at providing an overview of international studies on graduate employment, particularly centering on East Asia, from 20th century up to the present. In this study, 1,984 articles indexed in the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) were extracted from Clarivate Analytics Web of Science, before they were analyzed by using bibliometrix, which is an R-tool for comprehensive science mapping analysis. Among the total amount of articles, 143 articles were centred on graduate employment in East Asia. The present study performed semantic and knowledge network analysis, such as bibliographic coupling, co-citation, and historiographic mapping, chronological relations among the references. The results shed new light on the development and current status of the central topics in graduate employment research literature, and provide implications for further research.
Social policy preferences in the era of welfare reform in three East Asian welfare states: An intergenerational issue?

Chung-Yang Yeh  
Soochow University, Taiwan

Yeun-Wen Ku  
National Taiwan University, Taiwan

In the last decades, the rise of the global and knowledge economy has forced three East Asian economies, Japan, (South) Korea and Taiwan, to reform their welfare states. In line with the social investment idea, East Asian welfare state reforms aim to adopt more active social policies, such as education, on the one hand, and cut benefits of income protections, such as unemployment and pension benefits, on the other. As known, political legitimacy of welfare reform should be underpinned on public supports, but little attention is concentrated on how East Asian citizens perceive welfare reforms. This study therefore attempts to analyse social policy preferences in three East Asian welfare states by analysing the 2016 ISSP (International Social Survey Programme) data. In contrast to previous studies within which social policy preference is often operationalised as a one-dimensional concept, we conceptualise “welfare reform” as a multidimensional. By analysing social policy preference on education and pension, four dimensions of welfare reform could be recognised: welfare expansion, welfare protectionism (expansion of pension policy, but retrenchment of education policy), social investment (expansion of education but retrenchment of pension), and welfare retrenchment. Our preliminary finding shows that instead of “class”, “age” plays a decisive role in explaining social policy preferences between social investment and welfare protectionism among East Asian citizens, but cross-national variations in social policy preferences could be witnessed. Welfare reform is an intergenerational issue in East Asia.

Keywords: welfare attitudes, welfare retrenchment, social investment, intergenerational justice
Higher education for whom?  
Family background and higher education massification

Grace I-Jung Lu  
Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan, Taiwan

Equity in accessing Higher education for all students has always been one of the key elements of social mobility. Theoretically, higher education massification should be one of the great demonstrations of such practice of student having sufficient and equal access to higher education. In Taiwan, higher education massification has begun since 1999 and the admission rate of higher education has come to a peak high of over 90 percent in 2018. However, under this massification of higher education, sharp social stratification between the rich and poor are still found within the Taiwanese society. This paper presents the relation of student’s income background, parent’s education level, marital status and their education level through analyzing the data from national surveys. This research explores the concept of inequality through understanding who benefits from higher education massification. It shows how higher education massification may still mainly benefits specific groups of population in Taiwan yet closing up the gap and providing more opportunities for social mobility to happen. This research also discusses the remaining concerns and future challenges of social mobility and the equity in the higher education massification era and also states the positive potential for Taiwanese higher education institutions in providing quality education for all.

Keywords: equity in higher education, higher education massification, social mobility
The impact of college expansion on occupational and income mobility of the young adult in Taiwan

Ping-Yin Kuan
National Chengchi University, Taiwan

Ssu-Chin Peng
National Chengchi University, Taiwan

This paper evaluates the effects of the expansion of higher education on occupational and income mobility of the young adult in Taiwan. We argue that a valid assessment of the impact of college expansion on young adults’ social and economic return should identify three counterfactual groups: always-takers, compliers, and never-takers. The paper uses two datasets collected by Panel Study of Family Dynamics and difference in differences model to perform the evaluation. The study selects two specific time points, 10 and 15 years, of young adults’ job career to assess the impact of college expansion. The findings show that college expansion per se has negative effects on occupational and income mobility of young adults worked for ten years. The negative impact on income, however, disappeared when young adults had 15 years of work experience.

Regarding the differences between always-takers and compliers, the findings show that as far as occupational mobility is concerned, the college expansion is more beneficial to compliers who worked for ten years. The always-takers, however, surpass compliers in gaining upward mobility with 15 years of job experience. Concerning income mobility, the college expansion also favors compliers who have ten years of work experience. After working for 15 years, always-takers’ income mobility is also gaining more ground than compliers.

Keywords: college expansion, counterfactual analysis, income, occupational mobility, always-takers, compliers, never-takers.
Intergenerational justice and sustainability: 
Pathways for a green economy

*Paulina Pui-Yun Wong*  
*Lingnan University, Hong Kong*

The uncertainty of climate predictions has intensified the challenges on projecting long-term economic growth and its consequential impacts on policy making and economic decisions. Potential risks arising from climate change have jeopardized the quality of life of our future generations. The “Paris Agreement” on Climate Change and the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” by United Nations have been initiated to meet climate challenges. However, these sustainable development efforts to maintain societal needs in conjunction with environmental protection and economic growth will become ever more difficult to achieve further into the future. Consider the potential limits to growth with a finite supply of resources against the present trends in world population, pollution, waste production, and resource depletion, green economy to reduce wastes must commence immediately from the viewpoint of equality of opportunity and intergenerational justice.
Calling for regional development and collaboration:
Young people’s perceptions and evaluations of the development opportunities
in the Greater Bay Area in South China

Ka Ho Mok
Lingnan University, Hong Kong

With strong intention to establish the Greater Bay Area comprising nine cities and two
special administrative regions in the Guangdong area of South China, the Chinese
government announces and promotes the Greater Bay Area Development Blueprint in 2019.
The call for regional development and collaboration is strongly advocated by the local
governments in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau, as well as the central government in
Beijing. However, the responses from the citizens, especially in Hong Kong, seem not very
enthusiastic. This paper sets out the wider socio-political and socio-economic context
outlined above to critically examine how the young people aged between 18 and 35 in Hong
Kong perceive and evaluate the development opportunities in the Greater Bay Area. This
paper presents the major findings of surveys seeking the young people and also the university
students in Hong Kong to comment on the development opportunities in the Bay Area, with
particular reference to their major concerns and perceived hurdles when venturing in
development projects in South China.
Social integration between Hong Kongers and Mainlanders in Hong Kong: Social distance and intergenerational difference

Jin Jiang
Lingnan University, Hong Kong

In times of globalization, cross-border regions and new forms of regional integration have been emerging. The integration of cross-border regions is a complex process involving economic, institutional and social dimensions. The initiative of Greater Bay Area (GBA) issued in 2017 aims to further deepen cooperation amongst Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao, and facilitate in-depth integration within the region. While earlier studies of regional integration in Hong Kong and mainland China primarily about economic integration, less research attention is paid to the social integration, which is important to effectively implement the initiative of GBA. To fill the gap, this study draws on the data of the random telephone survey conducted in 2018 to examine the social integration between Hong Kongers and Mainlanders in Hong Kong. The main research questions are as follows: (1) how much local people are willing to participate in social contacts of varying degree of closeness with people from mainland China (social distance); (2) how the social distance vary across generations; and (3) how this intergenerational difference in social distance is shaped by personal experience and demographic characteristics. Based on the research findings, policy recommendations are proposed to promote cross-boundary social integration.
Health literacy, health status and social support in Ghana: 
Implications for intergenerational equity

Padmore Adusei Amoah
Lingnan University, Hong Kong

The quest for healthy populations is both a present and future need of societies. This necessitates an in-depth understanding of historical and current conditions to ensure sustainable healthy populations. In developing countries, this is even more critical considering the current patterns of epidemiological transitions. Moreover, given the well-known weaknesses in health systems in these places, the social environment has historically played an important role in ensuring equitable health for both young and older populations although research and relevant policies have inadequately addressed its implications for intergenerational health. This paper presents an empirical study on the moderating functions of three social support proxies (instrumental, informational, and emotional) in the long-established relations between health literacy and health to demonstrate the potential role of the social environment in promoting intergenerational equity in health. The results indicate that while health literacy was positively associated with health, the relation was stronger when young adults received a high level of emotional support. Among older persons, informational support substantially moderated the association between health literacy and health status. The paper concludes with discussions on ways to place elements of the social environment at the epicentre of efforts aimed at ensuring intergenerational equity in health outcomes.
Foreign aid effectiveness in the global knowledge-based economy: The case of Haiti

Nephtaly Andoney Pierre-Louis
National Chengchi University, Taiwan

Foreign aid has been under large criticism around the world. The success stories of aid effectiveness are few and the lack of local ownership and capacity are often put forward as the reasons for such failure. Paradoxically, as globalization expands, wealth gap among nations are deepening, pushing for even more effort from the developed world to fund foreign assistance to developing countries. Globalization is also deepening the knowledge gap among countries, which further exacerbates the lack of local capacity that is thought to be responsible for the ineffectiveness of foreign aid. However, using the case of Haiti, we argue that globalization presents more opportunities than challenges for aid effectiveness. These opportunities can effectively be exploited if only Haiti can be supported to build a strong higher education, research and innovation system for a locally owned development process that is knowledge-based.

Keywords: Globalization, Aid, Knowledge, Higher Education, Haiti
ABSTRACT

Immigration and public attitudes towards social assistance: Evidence from Hong Kong

Alfred Muluan Wu
National University of Singapore, Singapore

In the fast-changing globalized world, citizens’ evaluation of public policy is crucial for policy-makers (in the public administration literature, the NPM (New Public Management) philosophy also points to the importance of the citizen perspective). Hong Kong, as a small, developed economy deeply embedded in the global political economy, offers an ideal venue to study the determinants of public attitudes towards public policy and the impact of consumers’ (citizens) views about services of the government on real politics. This study investigates a puzzling phenomenon of why Hong Kong citizens have much lower support for increasing spending on the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, the largest social welfare program in Hong Kong and a predecessor of dibao, a social assistance scheme on a massive scale in Mainland China. The amount of CSSA has been kept at a minimum level while there is strong public support for increasing spending on all other welfare items. By conducting a random sampling survey in early 2017, we found that the attitude towards immigrants plays an important role in affecting public attitudes towards social assistance. A large portion of Hong Kong respondents support raising the requirements to become a permanent resident of Hong Kong to prevent newcomers from benefiting from social assistance. The stronger the support towards raising the bar for immigration, the more likely it is for the citizens to oppose the increase of spending on CSSA. The underlying mechanism could be that many citizens believe that it is mainly mainland Chinese immigrants who benefit from CSSA rather than local citizens; furthermore, they view new migrants as contributing less to society. The general public desire a reduction of social assistance. This study supports the existing literature that an influx of immigration could negatively influence the support for welfare spending, and highlights that the perceived targeting error for the pro-poor targeted program will influence citizens’ support of welfare spending. Policy implications for other small and developed economies will be highlighted.